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WEEKEND EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC



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Goodell, league
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Rice tape claims

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COUNTERING THE ISLAMIC STATE:

GRUELING EFFORT AHEAD



Stars and Stripes

Sgt. William Winstead watches Iraqi soldiers train at Camp Fallujah, Iraq, in 2010.

Retraining Iraq's fractured army: Will it work?

BY HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — As American troops prepared to leave Iraq in December 2011, the former head of the military training mission there, Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, had this to say about the Iraqi Security Forces:

"My gut tells me they will be capable to do this — they are doing it today," Helmick said. "Yet to be determined, longer term."

ANALYSIS

Helmick's doubts were validated this summer as a stunned world watched several hundred Islamic State militants and their allies send divisions of Iraqi soldiers into full retreat.

An eight-year, \$25 billion effort to reorganize, train and equip Iraq's military now seems all for naught — undermined by corruption and sectarian divisions.

SEE RETRAINING ON PAGE 7

Defeating militants may be much harder than Iraq, Afghanistan wars

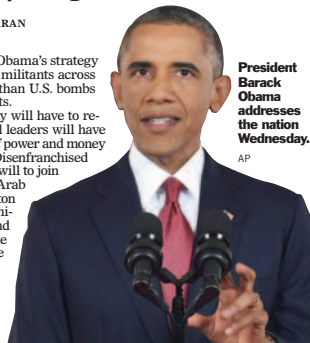
BY RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's strategy to beat back the spread of Islamic State militants across Iraq and Syria will depend on far more than U.S. bombs and missiles hitting their intended targets.

In Iraq, dissolved elements of the army will have to regroup and fight with conviction. Political leaders will have to reach compromises on the allocation of power and money in ways that have eluded them for years. Disenfranchised Sunni tribesmen will have to muster the will to join the government's battle. European and Arab allies will have to hang together. Washington will have to tolerate the resurgence of Iranian-backed Shiite militias it once fought, and U.S. commanders will have to orchestrate an air war without ground-level guidance from American combat forces.

"Harder than anything we've tried to do thus far in Iraq or Afghanistan" is how one U.S. general involved in war planning described the challenges ahead on one side of the border that splits the so-called Islamic State.

SEE HARDER ON PAGE 6



President
Barack
Obama
addresses
the nation
Wednesday.

AP

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Some people forget this is a cemetery. I would never go to the Holocaust museum and take a selfie."

— Nancy Nee, whose firefighter brother, George Cain, was killed in the 9/11 attacks, on the change in tone near the attack site in New York City

See story on Page 10

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. The old ways are no way for Army drill sergeants
2. Retraining Iraq's fractured army: Will it work this time?
3. Serving Down Under: Australia offers military jobs to US troops facing separation
4. Widow fights Army ruling of Green Beret's death as overdose
5. Fort Bliss soldier gets 30 years for brutal attack on pregnant woman

MILITARY

"Star Wars" spacecraft spotted at ex-base

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Greenham Common, once home to some of the most destructive weapons in the U.S. arsenal, is now home to weapons from "a galaxy far, far away."

Models of the Millennium Falcon and an X-Wing fighter, both prominent spacecraft in the original "Star Wars" movie trilogy, were spotted on the former military base by Matthew Myatt, an instructor with the Airbourne Aviation flying club.

Some media have speculated that the models are being used to shoot "Episode VII," the next installment of the "Star Wars" movie series. Pinewood Studios, with headquarters near London, is the location for the movie's principal photography, according to a studio news release.

Myatt was in an airplane flying over Greenham Common on Sept. 5 to take promotional photographs of Airbourne's aircraft when someone on the ground caught

his attention. Myatt said he took photos and then kept flying.

Later he examined the pictures and realized he had captured images of "Star Wars" spacecraft, he said. Myatt showed his son who like his father, is a "Star Wars" fan.

"He was, like me, absolutely over the moon and excited about it," Myatt told Stars and Stripes via Skype.

Greenham Common was home to 96 U.S. nuclear cruise missiles for a period during the Cold War, leading a group of women activists to set up a "Peace Camp" nearby, which endured for years.

Under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty, which was signed in 1987 by the United States and the Soviet Union, all missiles were withdrawn from Greenham by 1991. The U.S. subsequently returned the base to the U.K., which later closed it.

"Star Wars: Episode VII" is scheduled for release in December 2015.

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MATTHEW MYATT/Airbourne Aviation

A photo taken over Greenham Common, England, on Sept. 5 shows what seems to be a model of the Millennium Falcon and an X-Wing, spacecraft featured in the "Star Wars" movies.

COMING SOON



Shifting Gears

Mazda's new MX-5 Miata

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Generations of MOH recipients gather in Tenn.

By MATT LAKIN

The Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel

Kyle Carpenter doesn't remember the moment he threw himself on a grenade four years ago to save a fellow Marine in Afghanistan.

"I don't recall any of the events leading up to it," he said Wednesday. "I woke up in the hospital five weeks later."

Tom Kelley remembers the moment when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded 6 inches from his head 45 years ago as he led a naval rescue mission on the banks of a Vietnam canal.

"It threw me around the boat a little bit, but we were able to continue," he said. "I was the guy in charge. I had to get all my guys out."

Carpenter, then 21, and Kelley, then 30, each received the Medal of Honor for their actions. Each lost his right eye and nearly died. Kelley, now 75, is among the oldest living recipients; Carpenter,

who was presented the medal in June by President Barack Obama, so far is the youngest living recipient at 24.

They're spending this week in Knoxville with dozens of other recipients of the nation's highest military award at the annual convention of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

"There are only 78 of us living, so it's a reunion for sure," Kelley said. "Each of us did what we had to do under the circumstances. What I did wasn't for a medal. It was for the guys with me."

"I'm still the same person as before, but it's enabled me to meet people I wouldn't have met otherwise and help get the message out about patriotism, service to others and doing the right thing," he said.

"Anybody can do what we did under the right circumstances — they just need a little extra something dangled in front of them."

Kelley has attended various conventions of the society before;

this year is Carpenter's first.

"It weighs heavy on me," Carpenter said. "It represents a lot — history, sacrifice, the many who have gone before me. I just try to tell my story and the things I've lived and try to tell people there's a light at the end of the tunnel."

Carpenter and his comrade, Nicholas Eufrazio, were on duty atop a roof in Afghanistan's Helmand province Nov. 21, 2010, when they came under attack. Hand grenades landed inside their post, and Carpenter threw himself on a grenade to save Eufrazio.

The shrapnel fractured Carpenter's skull, punctured his lung and caused a host of other injuries so severe the medical evacuation team expected him to die. He woke up from a coma in the same hospital as Eufrazio.

"Neither one of us was able to get up out of bed," he said. "We had to send each other messages written on a chalkboard."

Now he's finished with sur-

geries, retired from the Marine Corps and pursuing a degree in international studies at the University of South Carolina.

Kelley was a Navy lieutenant commanding a river assault division of eight boats on June 15, 1969, during a mission to rescue a company of Army infantrymen on the east bank of the Ong Muong canal in Vietnam's Kien Hoa province when a boat broke down under enemy fire.

Kelley moved his boat into the line of fire to buy time for repairs, and a grenade barely missed his head and shattered a pipe instead, spraying him with shrapnel.

Kelley couldn't stand up and could barely speak, but he kept command and got all 250 soldiers and sailors to safety.

"I still had two radios, one in each hand," he said. "We stopped the ambush, and the boat got fixed."

The convention lasts through the weekend.

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VETERANS

Seniors boost number of vets deemed unemployable

By ALAN ZAREMBO
Los Angeles Times

Jack Behunin received welcome news last year from the Department of Veterans Affairs: Due to war-related medical conditions, he was being declared unfit to work, boosting his tax-free monthly disability compensation from \$1,850 to \$3,000.

Not that he had any interest in a job. The World War II veteran in Burbank, Calif., is 90 years old.

His case is not an aberration. Senior citizens have helped make the benefit — known as individual unemployability — one of the fastest-growing expenditures in the VA disability system. The number of “unemployable” veterans has nearly tripled since 2000, to 321,451, with the majority at ages when most people have already stopped working.

Government data show that 56 percent of the beneficiaries are at least 65 years old. Eleven percent

are 80 or older.

Being classified as unemployable can add \$1,100 to \$1,900 to a veteran's monthly disability pay, which often comes on top of Social Security.

At an annual cost of at least \$4 billion, the benefit is part of a rapidly expanding disability system expected to cost \$60 billion this year. Federal reports have singled out unemployability as an example of how a system operating under rules established decades ago has not kept pace with modern times.

“VA's compensation program does not reflect the current state of science, technology, medicine and the labor market,” the Government Accountability Office concluded in a 2006 report.

GAO researchers are now examining the benefit to determine how many veterans classified as unemployable had left the labor force voluntarily.

When the VA created the unem-

ployability benefit in 1934, Social Security didn't exist. The benefit was a safety net for veterans who couldn't work because of health problems that began in the military and whose disability ratings.

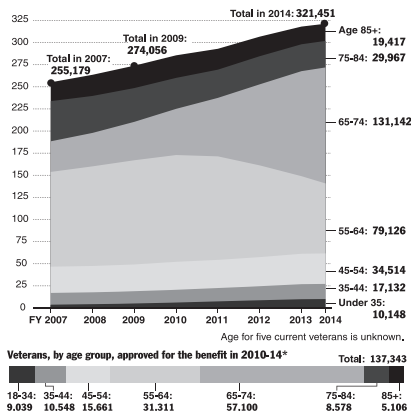
In 1945, as disabled World War I veterans continued to fall out of the workforce, the VA adopted a regulation ensuring eligibility to veterans of any age. That decision underlies much of the current growth. More than half the 137,343 veterans approved since 2010 were 65 or older, including 13,684 who were at least 75, according to VA statistics.

The largest group served in the Vietnam era. Many joined the disability system during the past decade as the VA expanded eligibility for PTSD and diabetes, heart disease, prostate cancer and other common conditions on the presumption they were caused by exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange, used to clear jungle vegetation in the war.

Unable to work

A rising number of veterans are being classified as unemployable. The designation boosts their disability pay to 100 percent, or about \$3,000 per month tax-free. More than half of those approved in recent years were already 65 or older.

Veterans, by age group, being paid for unemployability 2007-14*
In thousands



SOURCE: Department of Veterans Affairs

THOMAS SUI LAUDER, ALAN ZAREMBO/MCT

VA chief: 'Tens of thousands' more medical staff needed

By TOM PHILPOTT

The Department of Veterans Affairs needs “tens of thousands” more personnel working in VA hospitals and clinics to meet patient demand, new VA Secretary Robert McDonald told lawmakers Tuesday at a hearing of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

The size of the staff shortage, McDonald said, explains why VA has launched “a big recruiting effort” he kicked off recently with visits to Duke University and University of Pennsylvania medical schools to tell students there why “VA is where they want to work.”

Congress is pressing to clarify VA's staff shortage as the department struggles to recover from a patient wait-time scandal, demand for care grows due to a force drawdown, and the nation at large copes with a shortage of health workers, particularly in mental health care.

McDonald got more specific than some senators expected, at one point estimating that VA staff shortage at 28,000 against current staffing of 300,000. McDonald attributed that figure to his deputy, Sloan Gibson, who was acting sec-

MILITARY UPDATE

retary after retired Army Gen. Eric Shinseki resigned in May.

When 28,000 elicited a “Wow” from Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., the committee chairman, McDonald added that it includes both “clinicians and other employees.”

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont. later challenged the figure, telling McDonald that VA can't hold a reliable number on its medical staff shortage before it completes an ongoing study of staff productivity and patient demand.

“How can you make a determination that you need 28,000 medical staff,” Tester asked. “I mean, you're a wonder worker, probably, but in fact that information still hasn't been hammered out.”

McDonald conceded the point. “We are going through a process right now where we are, location by location, specialty by specialty, [trying] to understand how many people we really need,”

the secretary acknowledged.

Carolyn M. Clancy, a physician and interim under secretary for health at VA, is leading that process. She told Tester it is expected to be completed by year's end and will show both the number of clinicians and support staff VA needs “to make them as efficient and productive as possible.”

A VA spokesperson later said the 28,000 estimate is rough, and reflects current staff vacancies as well as future need for more physicians, nurses, other care providers and administrative staff.

Tester asked what VA would do with more physicians, given how tight office space is at VA clinics and hospitals.

“Obviously you're right,” McDonald said.

The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 enacted last month gives allow VA to open 27 more clinics. McDonald said he also favors leasing more space to deliver care “rather than building” facilities for a veteran population that tends to move over time.

McDonald listed VA action since May and during his first five weeks as secretary to try to

restore the confidence of veterans and nation in what has been a scandal-ridden VA health system. He praised the vast majority of employees dedicated to serving veterans and providing timely, quality care.

He vowed that those who don't put veterans first won't be tolerated, and whistleblowers will be protected and even urged to expose wrongdoing.

Sanders held the hearing to review the final report of VA Inspector General on abusive scheduling practices uncovered at the VA hospital in Phoenix. Those practices to hide staff shortages, impacted patient care and led the IG to open investigations at 93 other VA care facilities. Sanders called the behavior uncovered “inexcusable,” particularly that so many executives and senior clinicians knew about manipulation of wait time data.

“The people who lied or manipulated data at Phoenix and elsewhere must be held accountable,” Sanders said.

Patient care suffered as a consequence, Acting VA Inspector General Richard J. Griffin testified. His office examined medi-

cal records and other information for 3,409 patients, which included 293 deaths. It identified 28 instances of “clinically significant delays in care” tied to access or scheduling. Of these, six patients died. The IG found another 17 cases of care deficiencies unrelated to scheduling or access. Of these, 14 died.

However, the IG could not “conclusively assert that the absence of timely quality care” caused any deaths at Phoenix VA, Griffin testified.

That set Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) who said 77 patients on waiting lists across VA since January 2012 committed suicide. Wouldn't “a reasonable person” conclude wait-time manipulation contributed to some of those deaths?

Griffin said his staff is “not in the business of making odds on whether something did or didn't cause a death, whether it's likely or unlikely, 50 percent, 30 percent, 80 percent. That's not our purpose.”

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @MilitaryUpdate.

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MILITARY

Whistleblower: VA appeals board hid delays

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Mirroring a scandal that engulfed its health care system, Veterans Affairs managers handling disability benefit appeals also manipulated records to hide overly long delays in deciding cases, an agency whistleblower testified Wednesday on Capitol Hill.

The chairman and head office staff of the Board of Veterans' Appeals shifted cases in a tracking system in 2012 to wipe evidence it had held some for months, and more than a year in at least one case, Kelli Kordich, an attorney with the board, told a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee.

The sworn testimony sparked concerns among lawmakers that the systematic practice of doc-

toring electronic records at hundreds of VA hospitals and clinics to disguise long wait times may have spread to other areas of the sprawling federal agency.

The Board of Veterans' Appeals, which now has 280,000 pending appeals cases, said the incidents happened two years ago and were quickly fixed.

Kordich said a VA union sent a letter to former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki in June 2012 notifying him that board staff was unnecessarily delaying appeals. Veteran cases ranged from 120 to 415 days old, including five cases held personally by the board's principal deputy vice chairman.

"Most of the cases involved decisions on appeals of waiting veterans that already had been prepared by board attorneys and

were simply awaiting the signature" of the head office staff, she said.

When the board became aware of the complaint to Shinseki, top staff members entered the electronic case tracking system and reassigned the old cases to new attorneys, Kordich said.

"This had the effect of resetting the calculation of how many days the appeal had languished in one location," Kordich said.

She also outlined what she called a "toxic" office atmosphere characterized by "unchecked mismanagement, corruption and blatant disregard for our nation's veterans." Kordich said all the managers involved in delaying the appeals received employee bonuses and were later promoted.

Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-Texas,

said he has been hearing warnings and complaints from veterans in his district about problems with the appeals board and delays of up to two years in VA reaching decisions.

"I don't think we realized the crisis that was developing in the appeals process," he said.

VA Board Vice Chairman Laura Eskenazi, who Kordich claimed personally delayed five appeals cases in 2012, told lawmakers that some cases languished due to specific issues preventing a decision or because board attorneys were overloaded with work.

Eskenazi said she made changes that fixed the delays.

"I'm happy to report the measures I took are still in place today and we did not go back to that same bottleneck," she said.

Meanwhile, the board has fo-

cused for years on improving its workplace atmosphere, Eskenazi said.

"I've done countless things to address [workplace] climate and I think we made improvements, but we still have work to do," she said.

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., said he did not accept Eskenazi's explanation for the delayed appeals decisions, including one that took more than 600 days to resolve.

"He was very busy and didn't have time—that is the lamest excuse I've ever heard in my life," Roe said.

He said veterans sometimes depend on an appeals decision to pay for utilities and other basic necessities, and board staff should have to explain the delays in person.

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Everett Naval Station leader investigated in sex assault case

The Associated Press

EVERETT, Wash. — The Navy says the commanding officer of Naval Station Everett has been reassigned during a military investigation of a sexual assault allegation.

Navy spokeswoman Sheila Murray said Monday that an Article 32 hearing, which is similar to a civilian grand jury proceeding, is planned for Capt. James Duke Jr.

The Daily Herald of Everett reported that the allegation was

initially reported to Lake Stevens, Wash., police in January. Lake Stevens police Cmdr. Dennis Taylor said a woman told police that the 48-year-old man sexually assaulted her after she turned down his request for sex.

Through his lawyer, Duke said Monday that he is innocent and is the "target of a malicious and false allegation." Everett lawyer Anna Goykhman said the accusation was made in retaliation for Duke's decision to end a relationship.

Taylor said Lake Stevens police worked closely with military investigators.

The case was forwarded to Snohomish County prosecutors, who told police in June they weren't going to file charges.



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WAR ON TERRORISM

Rivals say Obama will need ground troops

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Conservatives pushed back Thursday against President Barack Obama's contention that the United States can stabilize Iraq without committing U.S. troops to a ground combat role in the country.

In a speech to the nation Wednesday night, Obama outlined a strategy that called for increased U.S. air attacks in support of Iraqi forces, coupled with increased training of the Iraqi military. The president said 475 additional troops would be sent to support the more than 1,000 others already on the ground in non-combat roles.

The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif., dismissed what he called Obama's

"minimalist" plan to the defeat Islamic State insurgents with the focus on air power. McKeon predicted that even in an advisory role, U.S. troops would likely end up in the thick of the fighting and would ultimately need to do more, including fighting alongside Iraqi units, helping them with logistics and communications, and aiding in holding ground taken from the Islamic State, a group also known by the acronyms ISIL and ISIS.

"American boots will be standing on sand. Americans will be shot at, and they will be shooting back," McKeon said in prepared remarks to an audience at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think tank. "There's simply no other way to do this."

He noted that U.S. reliance on air power alone in the NATO

campaign against the late Moammar Gadhafi had failed to bring stability once the Libyan leader was gone.

"We tried that in Libya, and it hasn't worked," he said.

Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters Thursday that the 475 advisers due to be sent to Iraq in coming days would embed with local troops at brigade level and higher headquarters, and would not engage in operations such as accompanying troops on combat operations or calling in airstrikes from the battlefield. James Carafano, a former Army officer and security scholar at the conservative Heritage Foundation, said Obama is right to avoid sending entire divisions back into Iraq. But the plan he has laid out is too stingy with troops, Carafano said.

"Conceptually, you look at the plan and you can live with that," he said. "But you have to look at what's underneath. With the president, you get the sense he's saying, 'I don't want to be accused of doing nothing, and I don't want to be accused of being Bush, and a neoncon.'"

The president is clearly avoiding "mission creep," Carafano said. But too few U.S. troops at the beginning of America's war to destroy ISIS actually creates a risk of mission creep, he said. "This is reminiscent of how we got involved in Vietnam," he said. "[Ex-President Lyndon B.] Johnson didn't want to be accused of being soft on communism, and he didn't want to get in too deep. As the situation developed, he just kind of got progressively dragged in."

But national security analyst Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies argued against more U.S. ground troops, writing in a paper Thursday that whatever the tactical needs, the United States' hands are tied by a number of factors.

"The United States has no domestic political support for deploying its own ground combat units," Cordesman wrote. "It would take months to deploy and organize a major land force presence to cover the large areas involved, and U.S. ground troops would walk into Iraqi and Syrian civil wars where they would almost inevitably be seen as favoring one side and being seen as an enemy by the other."

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Harder: General says effort to be 'most complex' problem for US since 9/11

FROM FRONT PAGE

But defeating the group in neighboring Syria will be even more difficult, according to U.S. military and diplomatic officials. The strategy imagines weakening the Islamic State without intensifying strengthening the ruthless government led by Bashar Assad or a rival network of al-Qaida affiliated rebels — while simultaneously trying to build up a moderate Syrian opposition.

All that "makes Iraq seem easy," the general said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to share views on policy. "This is the most complex problem we've faced since 9/11. We don't have a precedent for this."

The Syria side of the campaign remains a work in progress at the Pentagon, the CIA and the White House. The development of an operational plan is further complicated by a lack of intelligence — U.S. drones have not been flying over Islamic State-controlled parts of the country for long — and the absence of allied local forces that can leverage U.S. airstrikes into territorial gains.

The consequence will be a military campaign unlike the opening days of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, when tens of thousands of U.S. troops charged into the country and toppled Saddam Hussein's government in three weeks. Nor will it resemble the troop surges in Baghdad and southern Afghanistan, when American forces sought to counter militants by protecting the civilian population. Closer analogues, Obama said Wednesday night, are the counterterrorism campaigns waged in Yemen and Somalia, in which the United States has relied on drone strikes and the occasional Special Operations raid to kill or capture high-level targets, but placed no American boots on the ground for extended periods. Day-to-day fighting has been left to Yemeni and Somali soldiers.

Those missions have met

with success — a U.S. airstrike killed the leader of Somalia's al-Shabab jihadist movement last week — but both campaigns have dragged on for years and involve far smaller and less-well-financed adversaries than the Islamic State. Although Obama promised a "steady, relentless effort" in a nationally televised address Wednesday night, he also said that "it will take time to eradicate a cancer like ISIL," using a common acronym for the Islamic State.

Such a mission was not the U.S. military's preferred option. Responding to a White House request for options to confront the Islamic State, Gen. Lloyd Austin, the top commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, said that his best military advice was to send a modest contingent of American troops, principally special operations forces, to advise and assist Iraqi army units in fighting the militants, according to two U.S. military officials. The recommendation, conveyed to the White House by Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was cast aside in favor of options that did not involve U.S. ground forces in a front-line role, a step adamantly opposed by the White House. Instead, Obama had decided to send an additional 475 U.S. troops to assist Iraqi and ethnic Kurdish forces with training, intelligence and equipment.

Recommitting ground combat forces to Iraq would have been highly controversial, and most likely would have been opposed by a substantial majority of Americans. But Austin's predecessor, retired Marine Gen. James Mattis, said the decision not to send ground troops poses serious risks to the mission.

"The American people will once again see us in a war that doesn't seem to be making progress," Mattis said. "You're giving the enemy the initiative for a longer period."

Supporters of the president's

approach say that the use of U.S. ground troops could easily send the wrong message to Iraqi soldiers, encouraging them to hang back and allow the Americans to fight, and it might discourage Iraq's new government from moving quickly in efforts to win over Sunnis estranged by the previous prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki. "We cannot do for Iraqis what they must do for themselves, nor can we take the place of Arab partners in securing their re-

gion," Obama said.

U.S. military and diplomatic officials, even those who favored a small number of ground troops, see a path, albeit rocky, to wresting terrain from the militants in Iraq. If the new government of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi acts inclusively — a key early test will be whom he selects for the still-unfilled posts of defense minister and interior minister — and his military leaders place competent generals in charge of

the reconstituted units dispatched to fight the militants, the Islamic State's territorial gains could be eroded.

It will almost certainly be a grueling fight. Once U.S. airstrikes intensify and the Iraqi army gets back into the fight, most likely augmented by Shiite militias, members of the Islamic State may go covert, blending in with the local population and conducting insurgent-style attacks on Iraqi troops.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Retraining: Current, former US officers have doubts over Iraqi army effort

FROM FRONT PAGE

Now, the U.S. is starting from scratch with a new mission to urgently revamp the Iraqi military in hopes it can roll back the militant group that calls itself the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL.

Many politicians and experts say the U.S. has little choice but to try to salvage the Iraqi military. Yet some current and former U.S. military officers involved in the effort to stand up an Iraqi force wonder whether the new effort will succeed where the first one failed.

One senior Army officer, who served as a battalion-level trainer for the Iraqi army, said fixing deep problems within the Iraqi army's leadership would take years and would do little to combat the Islamic State in the short term.

"We just left in December 2011, so it's not even three years later," said the officer, who asked to remain anonymous because he is still in the military and fears reprisals. "So if all this effort didn't even make them capable of standing and fighting, why do we think it's going to matter if we send a handful of advisers over now?"

A sectarian militia

Many involved in the last training mission blame former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki — who took power from U.S. backing — for turning the military into what many now see as little more than a Shiite-dominated militia.

Al-Maliki's policies, which put many commanders into place more for their political loyalties than their military acumen, alienated the country's Sunni minority and helped set the stage for the Islamic State, a Sunni group, to take over towns populated by disaffected Sunnis with little resistance.

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, who oversaw training of the Iraqi forces in the early days of the Iraq war, said that after the U.S. invasion in 2003, American trainers tried to construct a military that was representative of the religious and ethnic makeup of a country where hostilities between Sunni and Shiite Muslims, as well as Kurds and Arabs, run deeply.

Eaton and others involved in that training program said al-Maliki, a Shiite hard-liner, started undoing the process as soon as U.S. troops withdrew from the country at the end of 2011.

"That process broke down with Maliki — it became a Shia-dominated army," Eaton said. "The army became illegitimate in the eyes of the people and illegitimate in the eyes of the soldiers themselves."

In order to address sectarian concerns, the U.S. plans to stand up National Guard units made up of Sunni tribesmen to operate in largely Sunni areas.

It's an idea with echoes of a similar program used to help bring Iraq out of a bloody civil war that engulfed the country between 2006 and 2008. That idea, known



Stars and Stripes

Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Nottelman, right, with the 382nd Military Police Detachment from San Diego, supervises members of an Iraqi reconnaissance platoon during range training in Iraq in 2006.

as the Awakening movement, involved paying Sunni tribesmen to turn against insurgents.

Unlike the proposed National Guard, Awakening units were never integrated into the Iraqi military because al-Maliki didn't trust them.

"The Iraqi army can be a nationalizing force — although some units are predominantly Sunni and others are predominantly Shia, they all fight for Iraq," said retired U.S. Army Col. Peter Mansoor, a brigade commander during the Iraq War. "I think it's really critical to make sure that ethic is instituted in the Iraqi military, and any identity with militias or other groups is squeezed out."

Mansoor said that early on in the Iraq War, the U.S. did not always pick the best officers to lead training and did not instill enough of a meritocracy in the Iraqi ranks, mistakes he said the U.S. must avoid this time around.

"We need to provide our best soldiers and leaders to be advisers and not just the most available ones," he said. "The real dilemma was how to convince the Iraqi government to promote the most competent leaders and not the most politically loyal ones, and that's what we got wrong and what the Iraqi government got wrong."

With the Islamic State making advances and the Iraqi army so far unable to beat them back, experts say time is running out for increased foreign military help to make a difference.

"There's a window here where the new government can make some strides if it takes the central messages to heart and makes some real reforms," said Kathleen Hicks, the director of the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "If that window closes ... I think that's a real risk for us, because we can't

train and equip a sectarian force that doesn't have support from the population."

Deep misgivings

Some have deep misgivings about trying to repeat a program that offered little lasting benefit. Their fears have heightened after reports that government-aligned Shiite militia members have been

targeting Sunni villagers in Islamic State strongholds, even heading some in a grim adoption of Islamic State tactics.

Retired Army Col. Douglas Macgregor said any training-and-equipping mission will accomplish nothing as long as Sunni Muslim countries allied with the U.S. continue to surreptitiously fund the Islamic State.

"You've got recruiting stations

and cash outlets supporting ISIS inside Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar," he said. "As long as they exist, even if you kill 10,000 or 20,000 ISIS people inside Iraq and Syria ... and you ignore the recruiting and cash outlets in these countries, whatever you destroy will be rebuilt and return."

The other part of Obama's train-and-equip plan calls for increased aid to moderate Syrian rebels, who have been battling the forces of President Bashar Assad for more than three years. More recently, the so-called moderates have also been fighting the more hard-line rebel groups, including the Islamic State.

In his speech Wednesday night, President Barack Obama said moderate Syrian rebels can act as a "counterweight" to the Islamic State.

But moderate forces have been increasingly squeezed out. The so-called Free Syrian Army, on which the U.S. once pinned its hopes to oust Assad, barely exists anymore, said Daniel Secckman, co-founder of the SREO Research Organization, a Turkey-based group that studies the Syrian conflict.

Secckman questioned how much the U.S. can accomplish by sending more help to any rebel factions, noting that even once moderate factions have had to join with Islamists to survive.

"I don't think the United States has any 'friend' inside Syria anymore," he said.

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MIDEAST

What to expect from the 'core coalition'

By JOHN VANDVER,
JENNIFER SVAN AND
MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

U.S. officials are working hard to build a broad, international coalition to combat Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq. What's unclear is whether the international effort will produce a coalition of consequence or one in name only.

At the NATO summit last week, the U.S. announced formation of a 10-nation "core coalition" that includes nine NATO members plus Australia. It has since grown.

In all, about 40 countries have expressed solidarity in the effort, according to the State Department, although some countries have not spelled out in detail what they are prepared to contribute. So far, most contributions from allies have centered on ferrying humanitarian aid into Iraq and limited arming of Kurdish forces in the north.

Major Arab states are all likely to play a role in the fight against the Islamic State, said Shashank Joshi, a senior research fellow with the Royal United Services Institute in London.

"The bigger question is what type of cooperation," he said.

Some Arab states may limit their contributions to allowing the U.S. to use their military facilities to launch airstrikes, Joshi said. But few will likely commit their forces with perhaps the exception of the United Arab Emirates, which is reported to have carried out airstrikes last month in Libya against Islamist-linked militia. The UAE has denied doing so. Jordan may also provide special forces, he said.

It will be difficult for the U.S. to persuade the mostly Sunni Muslim Arab rulers to play a more public role for various reasons, Joshi said. They include fears of Islamic State retaliation and inadvertently boosting the Syrian regime of Bashar Assad.

Arab countries in the Persian Gulf also risk domestic political problems due to public sympathy for the Islamic State, which some Sunnis believe are fighting for Sunni interests against Iran and its fellow Shiite allies in the region.

The U.S. has been urging Sunni allies such as Qatar and Kuwait to crack down on donations to the Islamic State by their citizens.

Not on the list of potential partners is Iran, though its interests coincide with those of the U.S. regarding the Islamic State's threat to the Shiite-led Baghdad government. Nevertheless, Joshi does not expect the U.S. will seek overt cooperation because of Iran's close ties to Assad and the delicate balancing act with Sunni Arab nations.

"At least publicly, a prominent Iranian role is not conducive to Arab participation," he said.

For President Barack Obama, the decision to go after Islamic State militants in Syria also creates a dilemma, as doing so could

The United States

On Aug. 8, the U.S. began a bombing campaign against Islamic State militants, hitting targets at strategic points in northern and western Iraq. So far, nearly 200 strikes have been carried out. In addition, President Obama announced on Wednesday that he would be sending 450 more U.S. troops into Iraq to work as advisers and to fly surveillance aircraft. That will bring the total number of military personnel in Iraq to 1,600. Obama has said the troops will not take part in ground operations against the Islamic State.

The United Kingdom

Britain has dropped humanitarian supplies into Iraq and provided arms to Kurdish fighters and carried out surveillance flights. Government officials have not ruled out participation in the U.S. air campaign. Iraq's new central government must first prove itself as inclusive, encompassing Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds before British forces get involved, government officials have said.

France

Paris has said it will send arms to Kurdish forces leading the fight against the Islamic State. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said Wednesday that France "will participate, if necessary, in military air action."

Germany

Berlin also has agreed to send weapons to semi-autonomous Kurdistan, marking a major shift for a country that has avoided foreign military entanglements since World War II. While it is unlikely Germany would participate in direct military action, it is conceivable that Berlin could take part in an advisory mission if Baghdad were to seek NATO training assistance.

Poland

Poland was named as one of the 10-core nations that are part of the U.S.-led coalition, but what it will contribute isn't yet clear. Poland possesses experienced, battle-tested troops who have spent the past decade fighting in Afghanistan. Warsaw could contribute some of those soldiers as advisers to Iraqi forces. Like many others in the coalition, Warsaw already has helped in the delivery of humanitarian supplies to Iraq.

Australia

Australian aircraft took part in the initial humanitarian intervention in northern Iraq last month, and Canberra is supplying weapons to forces countering the Islamic State. Australian officials haven't ruled out joining the U.S. in future airstrikes.

Canada

Canada has provided aircraft to help deliver humanitarian supplies into northern Iraq and has delivered weapons to Kurdish fighters. The Canadian government is also considering sending a small team of military advisers into Iraq.

Jordan

The kingdom routinely hosts U.S. troops for training, but, despite speaking out against "transnational terrorists," hasn't committed to action in Syria.

help Assad, who Obama has said needs to relinquish power.

"Whilst it's true that attacks will serve Syrian ends, it will also serve the ends of Syrian opposition groups, whom Obama has committed to supporting," Joshi said. The Islamic State may be

Italy

The NATO ally took part in initial humanitarian relief efforts in northern Iraq in August. At NATO's recent summit in Wales, Italy also said it would join the U.S.-led coalition in the effort to counter the Islamic State. It remains unclear whether that support will involve airstrikes or sending in trainers to work with Iraqi security forces.

Denmark

Danish aircraft have delivered both humanitarian supplies and weapons into northern Iraq. Though Denmark is one of NATO's smallest members, it often is a part of alliance-led military action, including sending forces into Afghanistan and taking part in the Libya intervention in 2011.

Turkey

The NATO member is among the "core coalition," but its role remains murky. Allies have been pressuring Turkey to tighten controls along its border with Syria, which has functioned as a main transit route for those fighting the regime of Bashar Assad. Islamic State militants have been among the fighters moving through Turkish territory. U.S. plans to strike at Islamic State targets in Syria could undermine Turkey's main objective in the region, Assad's removal from power. Meanwhile, the Islamic State is holding about 40 Turkish government officials and aid workers hostage, which also could limit Istanbul's willingness to play a prominent role in fighting the militants.

Saudi Arabia

U.S. officials say the kingdom on Wednesday agreed to host a program to train and equip moderate Syrian rebels fighting Islamic State militants and the Syrian regime.

Kuwait

The U.S. already maintains a handful of bases in the country, including an air base, a large desert ground maneuver training facility and a forward headquarters for the three-star Army component of U.S. Central Command. Kuwait was the primary logistics hub for the Iraq War. It also donated \$10 million to help with the growing humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

United Arab Emirates

The U.S. maintains an air base and has access to ports here. The UAE recently carried out airstrikes against militants in Libya, striking the U.S.

Bahrain

The U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet is based here. The U.S. maintains an airfield here and has had access to a second to move heavy equipment used in the war in Afghanistan. Bahrain's prime minister on Thursday urged Muslim countries to strengthen cooperation to tackle regional threats, but did not mention Islamic State.

Arab League

The league of 22 Arab nations on Monday agreed to confront the Islamic State militarily and politically, but hasn't elaborated on how it would do so.

Qatar

The country hosts two major U.S. installations, one an air base used for bombing missions over Afghanistan and cargo movement through the Middle East, the other an Army base used by Central Command to stage military equipment and supplies. The Qataris have also sent planeloads of aid to help with the humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

WAR ON TERRORISM

UN: Syrian rebels free 45 Fijian peacekeepers

By RYAN LUCAS
AND EDITH LEDERER
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Al-Qaida-linked Syrian rebels on Thursday released all 45 Fijian peacekeepers they had held captive for two weeks, the United Nations said, bringing an end to a crisis that had pulled the U.N. monitoring force into the chaos of Syria's civil war.

Fighters from the Nusra Front captured the Fijian troops late last month in the Golan Heights, where a 1,200-strong U.N. force patrols the buffer zone between Syria and Israel. The area along the frontier has been engulfed in heavy clashes since then between the rebels and the Syrian military.

"We can confirm they have been released," U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said Thursday. He said they were freed at the Quneitra crossing point in the Syrian-controlled part of the Golan Heights.

The U.N. said in a separate statement that all 45 of the Fijian troops "are in good condition" and will be taken for a quick medical assessment.

The Fijian hostages were captured Aug. 28, one day after rebels seized control of the Syrian

side of the Quneitra crossing from President Bashar Assad's troops.

The same day the Fijians were taken captive, nearly 80 Filipino peacekeepers were trapped at two U.N. encampments, surrounded by rebel fighters who demanded they surrender. The Filipinos refused, and both groups of Philippine troops eventually escaped — one bursting out with the help of Irish colleagues who came to rescue them and the other by slipping away under the cover of darkness.

The Fijians' release came just hours after the Nusra Front posted a video online in which the captive peacekeepers can be seen sitting cross-legged in the background as two men with long beards deliver short speeches in Arabic. Near the end of the video, one of the Fijian soldiers addresses the camera in English. He says the date is Sept. 9 and it's a "very happy day."

In the video, the two men speaking in Arabic describe their version of events leading up to the Fijians' capture on Aug. 28. They say one of them had given assurances the soldiers would not be harmed, and so they were honoring that.

Congressional support for rebel aid uncertain

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The future of President Barack Obama's proposal to arm Syrian rebels against the Islamic State remained uncertain in the House on Thursday as lawmakers emerged from a briefing on plans by top administration officials.

House members spoke of widespread support in the chamber for an offensive following a classified briefing by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Martin Dempsey, but said the passage of a funding bill for Syrian opposition remains uncertain before many leave Washington for midterm election campaigning next week.

The White House maintains Obama has authority to wage much of the long-term fight unveiled Wednesday night that aims to defeat the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria through military strikes, training of opposition forces and assistance from an international coalition.

The administration has conceded it will need Congress' co-

operation to fund Syrian rebel groups that have opposed the Islamist group during that country's three-year civil war.

"The question is, is there a group of people within Syria that can be vetted and proven reliable, that we can put our faith and trust in, to hold ground when we take it?" said Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Ky. "I'm not satisfied yet. We're still working on it."

Rogers, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said money for the effort could be included in the upcoming temporary budget bill, called a continuing resolution, if lawmakers support the effort. Congress had hoped to pass this month as a stop-gap measure to keep the government running while a annual budget is hammered out.

Any funding for the Syrian rebels could be included in the continuing resolution but would need to be finalized and added into the resolution before the bill's passage deadline on Wednesday, Rogers said.

"I hope by next Wednesday we

will come up with a procedure by which a good decision can take place on these powers," he said.

In June, Obama had proposed an annual overseas war budget that included \$500 million to arm and train Syrian groups the administration deems politically moderate. At the time, the plan was met with skepticism in Capitol Hill.

The new plan for offensives was welcomed Thursday by many in Congress, where lawmakers on both sides of the aisle had been calling for a more defined strategy and stronger action from Obama following a month of airstrikes and the belateding of two American journalists.

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee, said he supports arming and training the Syrian rebels but could not gauge overall support in the chamber.

"I support it ... it has got a strong possibility," Smith said.

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NATION

9/11 marked by solemnity amid changes

By RACHELLE BLIDNER
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Americans marked the 13th anniversary Thursday of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks with a New York ceremony held amid new surroundings.

For the first time, the long-awaited National September 11 Museum — which includes gut-wrenching artifacts and graphic photos of the attacks — is open on the attacks' anniversary. Fences around the memorial plaza have come down, integrating the sacred site more fully with the streets of lower Manhattan while completely opening it up to the public and camera-wielding tourists.

The ceremony, begun just before 9 a.m. was familiar. A solemn reading of the names. Moments of silence to mark the precise times of tragedy. Stifled sobs of those still mourning.

Much has changed though since 2001. New York has a new mayor in office, Bill de Blasio, one far less linked to the attacks and their aftermath than his immediate predecessors. And, finally, a nearly completed One World Trade Center has risen 1,776 feet — the year of American independence — above ground zero and will be filled with office workers by this date in 2015, another sign that a page in the city's history may be turning.

On Thursday, New Yorkers went about their morning routines along sidewalks that were once cordoned off. Inside the plaza, families milled quietly before reading the names of the deceased, pausing the sad roll call only four times: to mark the times when the first plane struck the World Trade Center, when the second plane struck, when the first tower fell and when the second tower fell.

The memorial plaza will be closed to the public for most of the day and available only to family members. It will reopen at 6 p.m., at which point thousands of New Yorkers are expected to mark the anniversary at the twin reflecting pools where the towers once stood.

For some who lost loved ones in the at-



ROBERT SAO, THE DAILY NEWS/AP

Janice Lynch, of the Queens section of New York, mourns Patricia Massari at the North Pool during memorial observances Thursday on the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York.

tacks, the increasing fear of a return to normalcy in the area threatens to obscure the tragedy that took place there and interfere with their grief.

"Instead of a quiet place of reflection, it's where kids are running around," said Nancy Nee, whose firefighter brother, George Cain, was killed in the attacks. "Some people forget this is a cemetery. I

would never go to the Holocaust museum and take a selfie."

For others, the changes are an important part of the healing process.

"When I first saw (One World Trade Center), it really made my heart sing," said Debra Burlingame, whose brother, Charles Burlingame, was piloting the plane before it crashed into the Pentagon. "It does every

time I see it because it's so symbolic of what the country went through.

"I want to see it bustling," she said. "I want to see more housing down there; I want to see it alive and bursting with businesses."

In May, when the long-awaited museum opened in a ceremony attended by President Barack Obama, the fences that had surrounded the plaza for years disappeared, as did the need for visitors to obtain timed tickets. Now, thousands of people freely visit every day, from cellphone-toting travelers to workers on lunch breaks, and those crowds will only swell further this year when One World Trade Center finally opens.

"The memorial and museum is extremely important to those impacted on 9/11," said Mary Fetchet, whose son died in the attacks. "And surrounding that memorial, lower Manhattan has been revitalized."

The first ceremony at the site was held six months after the Twin Towers fell and was organized by then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his aides. Bloomberg, who took office just three months after the attacks, remained in charge, acting as the master of ceremonies for the next decade.

After other elected officials attempted to gain a larger role at the solemn event, in 2012 all politicians — including Bloomberg — were prohibited from speaking at the event.

Elected leaders were speaking in Washington, where Obama delivered brief remarks at the Pentagon's Sept. 11 memorial.

"Thirteen years after small and hateful minds conspired to break us, America stands tall and America stands proud," the president said, making no mention of the administration's new plan to intensify military and diplomatic action against the Islamic State militant group in Iraq and Syria. Instead, he chose to remind Americans that a war begun soon after the 2001 attacks was finally winding down, saying "three months from now, our combat mission in Afghanistan will come to an end."

FEMA wants at least \$5.8M in Sandy aid repaid

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
AND DAVID B. KARUSO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After Superstorm Sandy hit the East Coast nearly two years ago, the federal government quickly sent out \$14 billion in emergency disaster aid to the hurricane's victims.

Now, thousands of people might have to pay back their share.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is scrutinizing about 4,500 households that it suspects received improper payments after the storm, according to program officials and data obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request. As of early September, FEMA had asked about 850 of those households to return a collective \$5.8 million. The other cases were still under review.

FEMA's campaign to recover overpayments, called "recomping" in agency lingo, typically involves instances in which the

agency believes a household got more money than allowed under program rules, but not necessarily because of an intentional attempt to cheat the system. Fraud cases are handled separately.

Many people asked to return money were deemed ineligible because their damaged properties were vacation houses or rental properties, not their primary residences. Others had double-dipped into the aid pool, with more than one household member getting payments. Some received FEMA money for things later covered by insurance.

As of July 30, the average demanded refund was \$6,987, a sum that could be difficult for many, given the modest annual incomes of most aid applicants. Roughly half of the households under scrutiny reported annual gross incomes of \$30,000 or less.

The larger pool of cases still under review as of that date involved \$53 million in aid payments — about 3.7 percent of the

total given out by FEMA through its individuals and households program — though any potential refunds would likely involve only a portion of that money.

"For most people, the money is long gone and long ago spent on storm recovery," said Ann Dibble, director of the New York Legal Assistance Group's storm response unit, which has been helping about a dozen families fight a FEMA clawback.

The list of people asked to return cash includes Gary Silberman, of Lindenhurst, N.Y., who got a letter last November demanding just under \$17,000. The agency said he was ineligible partly because he and his elderly father had both applied for disaster funds even though they were living together.

The Silbermans also were barred from getting some types of aid because they had failed to buy flood insurance after getting \$25,000 in FEMA aid for flood damage during Hurricane Irene

a year earlier.

Silberman said he should still qualify for the money because he was a rent-paying tenant in his father's house, not a dependent, but FEMA so far has rejected his appeals.

"I lost my home. I lost everything. I don't have \$17,000 to give back," Silberman said. Sandy was among the costliest hurricanes in U.S. history. More than 280 people died in the U.S. and the Caribbean. When the storm struck the New York and New Jersey coastlines, the surging ocean poured into densely populated seaside neighborhoods and turned entire communities into soggy, moldy wrecks.

About 179,000 households in New York and New Jersey received FEMA payments following the storm. The agency is also reviewing payments to some households in Connecticut, Maryland and Rhode Island.

FEMA mobilized for Sandy hoping to avoid problems that

plagued the aid distribution process following Hurricane Katrina's strike on the Gulf Coast in 2005. That destructive storm forced the overwhelmed agency to relax internal controls to speed relief efforts, which led to huge numbers of people getting money they shouldn't have received.

FEMA's attempts to recover hundreds of millions of dollars, often from people who couldn't afford to pay, led to a court fight and a procedural overhaul. By 2011, the agency had mailed out letters to at least 90,000 households asking for aid refunds. Congress authorized the agency to waive much of that debt.

The agency says it has since gotten better at making sure aid only goes to the right people, and in proper amounts.

"They have a lot more controls in place," said John Kelly, the Department of Homeland Security's assistant inspector general for emergency management oversight.

NATION



DAVID CARSON, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

A protester is arrested during an attempt to shut down Interstate 70 in Berkeley, Mo., on Wednesday near the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson.

Highway shutdown attempt averted

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Mo. — A planned highway shutdown fell through Wednesday as a wall of officers in riot gear kept people who planned to protest the Ferguson police shooting from walking onto Interstate 70 during the late afternoon commute.

State troopers and St. Louis city and county officers warned the roughly 150 demonstrators who gathered in a nearby suburb to stay out of the road as they protested last month's shooting of Michael Brown, a black, unarmed 18-year-old, by a white officer. There were nearly as many officers as demonstrators.

Organizers said the protest in Berkeley was designed as an act of nonviolent civil disobedience similar to a 1999 demonstration in the same location. During that protest, hundreds of people shut down the interstate in a dispute over minority hiring for road construction projects.

Highway Patrol Sgt. Al Nothum said that 35 people were arrested, most on charges of unlawful assembly. Nothum said protesters threw rocks, concrete blocks,

“We’re out here to show support. We feel that an injustice has been done.”

Antoin Johnson
Ferguson, Mo., protester

bricks and bottles, leading to four charges of assault on a law enforcement officer.

A smaller group later went to the nearby Ferguson police station before a heavy, late afternoon thunderstorm dispersed most of the protesters.

The crowd included about 20 union workers who operate public transit buses and trains for the region's Metro system.

“We’re out here to show support,” said Antoin Johnson, 30. “We feel that an injustice has been done.”

About 120 miles away in Jefferson City, the killing of Brown briefly dominated a veto override session at the Missouri Capitol, where a state senator who represents parts of Ferguson called Gov. Jay Nixon a “coward” for his

initial response to Brown's death.

Democratic state Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal said the governor “stood by and did nothing until this became a global story.”

Nixon has come under heavy criticism for his perceived slowness in response to the shooting and its subsequent looting and unrest. Copies of Nixon's daily schedule provided upon the request of The Associated Press showed Nixon going about his routine business for several days after the shooting, splitting his attention between the unrest in Ferguson and items such as announcing grants to preschools and visiting the State Fair.

Nixon has said Brown's death didn't initially appear to be the sort of situation that a governor should inject himself into.

Wednesday's protest near Ferguson followed a tense meeting of the city's elected leaders Tuesday night. The Ferguson City Council held its first meeting since Brown was killed, hoping to use the gathering to promote community healing. Instead council members were met with anger and warnings from constituents that they would be voted out of office.

Mo. enacts 3-day law for abortions

By DAVID A. LIEB
The Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri women seeking abortions will face one of the nation's most stringent waiting periods, after state lawmakers overrode the governor's veto to enact a 72-hour delay that includes no exception for cases of rape or incest.

The new requirement will take effect 30 days after Wednesday's vote by the Republican-led Legislature, overruling the veto of Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon. He had denounced the measure as “extreme and disrespectful” toward women.

The abortion bill was one of the most prominent Republican victories in a record-setting September session, during which Missouri lawmakers also overrode 47 line-item budget vetoes and eight other bills, including one creating a training program for teachers to carry guns in schools.

Earlier this year, the Republican-led Legislature overrode Nixon's veto to enact the state's first income tax rate reduction in nearly a century.

About half the states, including Missouri, already have abortion waiting periods of 24 hours. Missouri's current one also lacks an exception for cases of rape or incest.

The new law will be the second-most stringent behind South Dakota's, where its 72-hour wait can sometimes extend even longer because weekends and holidays are not counted. Utah is the only other state with a 72-hour delay, but it grants exceptions for rape, incest and other circumstances.

Missouri lawmakers specifically rejected an amendment earlier this year that would have granted exceptions for rape and incest. Abortion opponents argued that it would have diminished the value of some lives depending on how they were conceived.

Supporters of the legislation describe it as a “reflection period” for women and their families.

If “you get a couple of more days to think about this pregnancy, think about where it's going, you may change your mind” about having an abortion, said Rep. Kathie Conway, a Republican from St. Charles.

Abortion-rights advocates described the three-day wait as insulting to women who they said have likely already done “soul-searching” before going to an abortion clinic.

“It's designed to demean and shame a woman in an effort to change her mind,” said Rep. Judy Morgan, a Democrat from Kansas City.

Lawmakers expand gun rights in state's schools

The Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Lawmakers in Missouri expanded the potential for teachers to bring guns to schools and for residents to openly carry firearms in a vote Thursday that capped a two-year effort by the Republican-led legislature to expand gun rights over the objection of the Democratic governor.

The new law will allow specially trained school employees to carry concealed guns on campuses. It also allows anyone with a concealed weapons permit to carry

guns openly, even in cities or towns with bans against the open carrying of firearms.

The new law requires the state Department of Public Safety to establish training guidelines for schools wanting to designate a teacher or administrator as a “school protection officer” authorized to carry a concealed gun or self-defense spray.

The vote makes Missouri the 10th state to allow armed school employees since 20 children and six adults died during a shooting in Newtown, Conn. in 2012.

Records: Dad accused in killing of 5 children went through nasty divorce

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, S.C. — Timothy Ray Jones Jr. earned his computer engineering degree, worked at a \$71,000-a-year job, had a wife of 10 years and several young children.

Then, a little more than two years ago, he discovered his wife was putting their children to bed in their South Carolina home and going to the neighbor's house and sleeping with the neighbor's 19-year-old son, according to divorce papers. Jones moved out with the children and seemed friendly

to his new neighbors, but began to withdraw to the point where the woman who lived next door thought he and his family had moved away.

Jones and his five children, ages 8, 7, 6, 2 and 1, disappeared two weeks ago, but no one called police for days. Authorities weren't convinced anything was wrong until they said an intoxicated, agitated Jones was stopped at a DUI checkpoint in Mississippi where officers found him alone, with blood and children's clothes in his SUV and

the stench of death in the air.

Jones, 32, would lead investigators to his children's bodies, wrapped in five trash bags on an isolated Alabama hilltop, but it's still not clear and may never be — why he killed his children, authorities said. Authorities in South Carolina said he will face five charges of murder when he returns from Mississippi, perhaps as early as Thursday.

Jones' father, Timothy Jones Sr., stood outside his Amory, Miss., home a day after his grandchild-

ren's bodies were found, and asked for prayers for his family and for the son he referred to as Little Timmy and Little Tim.

“Let it be known that people will come to their own conclusions and as parents we can understand that decision based on the circumstances,” the father said in a statement. “But please remember that our Little Tim is a very loving father, brother and son.”

Lewis McCarty, the acting sheriff in Jones Jr.'s home of Lexington County, S.C., said the children

were likely killed shortly after they were last seen in school and day care on Aug. 28. He didn't say how they were killed, or where, except that it wasn't in their home.

The court records also showed a troubled life, both for Jones and his children. The divorce included multiple allegations of adultery against Jones' wife Amber.

A therapist who saw Jones during the divorce described him as “highly intelligent” and responsible, yet emotionally devastated and angry over his wife's actions.

NATION

Brooke Montelone rides a wave in San Clemente, Calif. Brooke and two of her siblings have cystic fibrosis and began surfing for its health benefits.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS CARLSON/AP



From left, Michael, Brooke and Gavin Montelone do breathing treatments before heading into the surf.



Above: Michael rides a wave.

Below: Gavin gets help surfing from volunteer Bobby Friedman.



Breathing life

Cystic fibrosis patients surf for fun — and also to extend their lives

By KRISTA FAURA
The Associated Press

FOR three of Rob and Paulette Montelone's five kids, spending the summer surfing is more than just a fun activity. It could also extend their lives.

The Montelone siblings are part of a growing number of people with cystic fibrosis who are taking advantage of the health benefits that come with surfing.

Since researchers realized that the salt water in the ocean helps clear out the thick mucus that builds up in patients' lungs, organizations have sprung up around the world that teach those with the disease how to "hang 10."

"We have found the silver lining to it all and that has been through surfing," Paulette Montelone said on a recent summer day while her five children were out in the water. "It's helping them breathe better ... but it's also helping us, as a family, enjoy something together."

The average lifespan for someone with cystic fibrosis is about 40, but many patients don't make it past their teens. The genetic condition, which must be inherited from both parents, affects 70,000 people worldwide.

There is no known cure, but about a decade ago, doctors in Australia noticed that patients who surfed seemed to breathe easier. Subsequent studies resulted in new saline treatments for patients in 2006 based on the salt water discovery.

The discovery also led to the development of organizations like the Maui Ola Foundation, which means "breath of life" in Hawaiian. The organization pairs patients with professional surfers.

The entire Montelone clan, who said they have no family history of the disease, found Maui Ola a year after three of the kids were diagnosed. They learned to surf — a natural treatment that helps lubricate the patients' airways.

"They're spitting up their mucus. I mean, I'm out there going, 'Hey, cough it up, man. No shame,'" said Josh Baxter, a world champion surfer who volunteers with Maui Ola and regularly surfs with the Montelones.

Known as the "Brady bunch" of the cystic fibrosis world, the Montelones have a

son named Michael, 12, and two sets of twins — Grace and Gavin, 8, and Brooke and Brian, 10.

In 2008, Gavin tested positive for the disease after being taken to a specialist for persistent sinus problems. After Gavin's diagnosis, the Montelones had all of their children tested and learned that Brooke and Michael also had it.

So the family treks from their inland home to the beach at least once a week every summer, often camping there for days at a time. They do their breathing treatments on the beach in between surfing sessions.

Gavin wears a T-shirt with the words "Breathe Life" emblazoned across it, a phrase the Montelones refer to as their family motto.

NATION

Student film takes on vaccine debate

Youngsters defend documentary, fight for its release amid criticism by skeptics

By ERYN BROWN
Los Angeles Times

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Every school day, students at Carlsbad High tune in their classroom televisions to a news show produced by its award-winning broadcast journalism program.

Airing from a well-appointed studio on campus, the report covers topics ranging from final exams to nearby wildfires, delivered by a teenage staff that typically roosts around until the cameras roll and professionalism descends.

Carlsbad High has come to expect a lot from CHSTV, a "signature program," according to schools Superintendent Suzette Lovely.

But no one expected the kind of attention that has lately muzzled one of its most acclaimed works — a short documentary produced by an extracurricular offshoot of the program.

The movie, "Invisible Threat," bills itself as a report on "the science of disease and the risks facing a society that is under-vaccinated."

As the students and their advisers prepared to debut it, they found themselves cast as foot soldiers in a long-running immunization war between a small group of activists who argue that vaccines cause autism and the vast majority of physicians and scientists who say they don't.

The anti-vaccine groups — whose work has contributed to the recent decline in immunization rates in some parts of the country, medical authorities believe — charged that the Carlsbad students had been duped by deceitful advisers who had been paid off by the pharmaceutical companies that make vaccines.

The criticism surfaced before the movie was finished and wore on for more than a year.

It delayed the launch of the movie for months and became heated enough in May that Carlsbad's parent-teacher association canceled an on-campus screening for fear that grumbling activists would show up, as they had when the film was shown at Cal State San Marcos.

"We didn't want to put the kids who worked on this into a position where people could get on campus and harass them," said Kym Szalkiewicz, president of the parent-teacher group.

The students of CHSTVfilms, as the extracurricular program is called, said they were blindsided by the reaction.

"We're an extracurricular film club," said Mark Huckaby, the graduating senior who narrated the film. "It's just not cool."

They deny being pawns of anyone.

The idea for "Invisible Threat" came from a group of silver-haired Rotary Club volunteers who had been working for 20 years to promote immunization in San Diego County.

But the young people and their advisers thought the Rotary proposal — to make a 20-minute educational film explaining how the immune system and immunization work — seemed boring, they said. And they bristled when the Rotarians told them how the movie should be made, added Bradley Streicher, one of the students who worked on it.

"We said, if we do this, we have to do this on our terms," he said. "We wanted to explore this from both sides."

In the end, the club officials agreed — "We took a flier," said Ben Yehuda — and started raising \$60,000 to cover production and buy equipment that would also be used by CHSTV.

Then the student team dived in, said Lisa Posard, a parent adviser who served as the film's producer and whose then-student daughter wrote the film's script.



PHOTOS BY BOB CHAMBERLIN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Above: Student filmmaker Gabriel Retzer, 17, addresses an audience June 4 at the San Diego County Health Department after showing the film "Invisible Threat" in Carlsbad, Calif. The students produced the documentary about the risks of not having children vaccinated, which riled anti-vaccination activists. Below: Camerawoman Lauren Chavez checks a monitor while students in the broadcast journalism class at Carlsbad High School produce their daily campus news program.



"We said, if we do this, we have to do this on our terms. We wanted to explore this from both sides."

Bradley Streicher
Carlsbad High School student filmmaker

net comments directed at CHSTV, Posard said.

The final version of "Invisible Threat," completed in spring 2013 but shown only to select audiences, took a strong pro-vaccine position.

Critics, who said they hadn't been allowed to see the movie, leaped back into action about a year later when the film was set to be screened on Capitol Hill.

Focus Autism and AutismOne organizations complained about the movie's Rotary Club backing and about the involvement of Dr. Paul Offit, a University of Pennsylvania pediatrician and immunization proponent. They argued that "Invisible Threat" was "scripted with industry talking points" and that the movie seemed to be the work of adults operating under false pretenses, not students.

CHSTV teacher Douglas Green, a former PBS Television teacher adviser and current president of the national Student Television Network who is credited as the director of "Invisible Threat," disputed that account. "I would never encourage students to deceive anybody," he said.

Streicher, who this fall will be a sophomore in USC's Annenberg School of Communications' broadcast journalism program, called the controversy "disheartening."

"We really took pride in the work we did as students," he said. "It's sad to see that people would call it into question."



From left, Gabriel Retzer, Allison DeGour and Lauren Streicher, all 17, talk before they air their documentary "Invisible Threat" in Carlsbad on June 4.

They read studies. They talked to medical experts who praised vaccines. And they interviewed parents who distrusted vaccines, as well as a local osteopath who treats autistic children.

Some of the students initially believed vaccines and autism were linked, they said, but changed their minds as they researched.

"It was all social controversy. There was no science controversy," said Allison DeGour, who will be a senior this fall.

Complaints began to arise when a local newspaper reported that the students were tackling "the issue of immunizations."

A blogger who saw the article contended that the movie, still a work in progress, was sure to be "propaganda." That led to a flurry of frightening phone calls and Inter-

NATION



Hollywood talent agent Sid Levin listens as actress Stephanie Sanchez, who was an officer in the U.S. Navy serving with the Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan, talks about her experience in Levin's Los Angeles office in June.

In a town where seemingly everyone wants to be a star, but few look like James Franco or Scarlett Johansson, Sid Levin is the talent agent who represents the people who look like the rest of us. Some play tough guys because they once were. Or hard-core military types because they were that.

A real character

By JOHN ROGERS
The Associated Press

YOU COULDN'T miss Hollywood talent agent Sid Levin's office in the old days: It wasn't much bigger than a closet and it was sometimes filled with burglars, bank robbers and gang members, all trying to break into the movies.

These days you'll find everyone from Gulf War veterans to a 15-time world arm-wrestling champion in the office, and Levin didn't bring them in for protection. They're looking to be movie stars, too.

In a town where seemingly everyone wants to be a star, but few look like James Franco or Scarlett Johansson, Levin is the talent agent who represents the people who look like the rest of us. Some play tough guys because they once were. Or hard-core military types because they were that.

"I am kind of the strange guy here in Hollywood," says Levin from behind the desk of his office, which is actually just down the road in adjacent Beverly Hills. "I rep a lot of talented people, but people who are kind of the underdog. But that's OK. I'm the underdog, too."

One of his breakout underdogs is the arm-wrestling champion and former juvenile hall guard Dot-Marie Jones. She's been nominated for three consecutive Emmys since landing the role of Coach Beiste on "Glee." Although she missed out on a nomination at last month's awards show, he says, he's confident she'll get one eventually — because she's that good.

On his desk, meanwhile, is an old-fashioned Rolodex with a list of more than 100 names, many of people you've likely never heard of but realize you sort of recognize from somewhere.

There's Abdoulaye N'gom, for example. The Senegalese-born actor who came to Los Angeles 35 years ago with the unlikely dream of becoming a movie star, although he spoke little English and what he did came out in a thick accent reflecting the years he'd spent in Senegal and France.

"But Sid said, 'There's just some-

thing about you. I know you're going to work,'" recalled the actor who after years of small parts in films like "George of the Jungle" recently played the kindly hotel manager in the Drew Barrymore-Adam Sandler comedy "Blended."

Likewise, when Levin saw the square-jawed, no-nonsense-looking Coast Guard Petty Officer Mike Dalager, he said, he knew just what roles to send him after. Dalager's been a cop, a soldier and a member of the crew of the Enterprise in "Star Trek: Into Darkness." Not that he always plays the good guy. He was also a Taliban militiaman in "Eagle Eye."

"It's definitely a what-you-look-like industry," said Dalager, adding Levin seems to know that better than anyone.

Levin, 56, himself looks like he could have walked out of a movie about an old-time agent in the mold of "Broadway Danny Rose." He's short, paunchy and, on this day, dressed in slacks and a pull-over blue shirt with a gold medallion hanging around his neck.

Thirty years ago, the former stand-up comic and singing-telegram salesman put up a shingle in a tiny office at the faded but then-faded intersection of Hollywood and Vine. "People told me I had to

move because nobody would go there after dark," he recalled of Hollywood's rougher days.

Kids from the even rougher streets of South Los Angeles would, however, especially after Levin got seven of them roles in director John Singleton's breakthrough movie "Boyz n the Hood" in 1991. They had been sent to him by a Compton acting coach named Anthony Bean who was trying to get them away from street gangs.

"Don't ask me why and how I found Sid. I don't even recall," said Bean, who has since returned to his native New Orleans to run an acting school for inner-city youth. But in a business that can be cut-throat, Bean said he just got a feeling the fast-talking agent wouldn't rip off naive street kids.

The next break came when a tough looking Latino actor from one of L.A.'s roughest barrios came through the door. When Danny Trejo started to work regularly, Levin recalls, he volunteered to prisoner workshops and began sending his students to him. "Ex-cons that were bank robbers and what have you started showing up, and that was kind of dicey," he recalled, chuckling.

Still, he might have kept representing ex-cons, gang members and their associates if tragedy hadn't struck.

Dedrik Gobert, one of the South Los Angeles kids he'd gotten into "Boyz n the Hood," seemed headed for stardom. He was making money and spending it restoring old cars.

Unfortunately, he raced one day against a gang member, they argued afterward and he was shot to death. "I still think about him a lot," Levin said softly. "It was just so senseless."

As most of the kids from L.A.'s mean streets drifted away from acting, and some like Trejo who became big stars moved on to other, more prominent representation, Levin began to focus more on military and law enforcement people.



Above: Levin, right, shakes hands in June with actor Mike Dalager, who is serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, in his office in Los Angeles. Dalager has played a cop, a soldier and a member of the crew of the Enterprise in "Star Trek: Into Darkness."

Right: Levin in his office in Los Angeles.

PHOTOS BY JAE C. HONG/AP



WORLD

High-tech survey exposes hidden Stonehenge



GEERT VERHOEVEN, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM/AP

A man uses surveying instruments near Stonehenge where a hidden complex of archaeological monuments has been uncovered using hi-tech methods of scanning below the Earth's surface.

The Associated Press

LONDON — There is more to Stonehenge than meets a visitor's eye.

Researchers have produced digital maps of what's beneath the World Heritage Site, using ground-penetrating radar, high-resolution magnetometers and other techniques to peer deep into the soil beneath the famous stone circle.

The project produced detailed maps of 17 previously unknown ritual monuments and a huge timber building, which is thought to have been used for burial ceremonies, Birmingham University said Wednesday.

"New monuments have been revealed, as well as new types of monument that have previously never been seen by archaeologists," said Professor Vincent Gaffney, the project leader.

The project also discovered big prehistoric pits, some of which appear to be aligned with the sun, and new information on Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlements and fields, the university said.

Professor Wolfgang Neubauer of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection

'New monuments have been revealed, as well as new types of monument that have previously never been seen by archaeologists.'

Professor Vincent Gaffney
project leader

tion and Virtual Archaeology in Vienna says the new maps makes it possible "for the first time, to reconstruct the development of Stonehenge and its landscape through time."

Archaeologists and others have been digging and theorizing at Stonehenge since the 1620s. The monument, 85 miles southwest of London, attracts more than 1.2 million visitors a year — including, last week, President Barack Obama.

The universities of Nottingham, Bradford and St. Andrews in the U.K., and the University of Ghent in Belgium were also involved in the project.

Spain's Catalans protest to demand secession vote

The Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Separatists in northeastern Spain swarmed into Barcelona by the busload Thursday, waving independence flags as they demanded a secession sentiment vote that the Spanish government insists is illegal.

Many sported yellow-and-red shirts with the phrase "Now is the time" and shouted "Independence!" in Catalan as they joined a mass protest getting a boost from Scotland's upcoming independence vote.

Catalonia regional leader Artur Mas said his government is not wavering from plans to hold a Nov. 9 referendum in the region of 7.6 million people, even though experts say any attempt is sure to be blocked by Spain's Constitutional Court. Mas has repeatedly said he will not call an illegal vote.

A recent poll suggesting that Scotland's Yes independence

camp could possibly win the country's Sept. 18 vote has captivated a wide variety of groups in addition to Catalan separatists. Those include pro-independence Basques in northern Spain; Corsicans who want to break away from France; Italians from several northern regions; and Flemish speakers in Belgium demanding more autonomy, independence or union with the Netherlands.

"The dynamics at this point are with the 'Yes' side, and if the 'Yes' side actually wins it creates a strong precedent," said Hugh O'Donnell, a professor of cultural politics at Glasgow Caledonian University.

Unlike the Scottish ballot, a vote in Catalonia would not result in secession. Mas' proposed referendum would ask Catalans whether they favor secession and if the answer is yes he says that would give him a political mandate to negotiate a path toward independence.

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MIDEAST



In the Qasaba district of Kabul, Afghanistan, the proximity of residential housing to large compounds associated with the Afghan Defense and Interior ministries — prime targets for insurgents — means civilians are increasingly in the crossfire.

‘This is new for us’

For middle-class Kabul district of Qasaba, the insurgency comes home

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM
The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — Nestled at the base of the craggy mountaintops that loom over north Kabul, the middle-class neighborhood of Qasaba seems an unlikely place to be infiltrated by Afghanistan's Taliban-led insurgents.

It is ethnically diverse, in a country where bloody battles have been fought along ethnic lines, and its inhabitants hail from a generation of civil servants who worked for Afghanistan's communist government in the 1970s. But Qasaba — flanked to the south by Kabul International Airport, and home to sprawling security compounds housing Afghan and foreign troops — emerged as a key new location for insurgent attacks this summer.

Two brazen assaults here last month, including an hours-long siege of the airport launched from a residential building and a suicide attack targeting foreign advisers to the Afghan government, have residents worried they are now in the crosshairs of an insurgency that has long wreaked havoc in the rest of the country. As foreign troops prepare to leave Afghanistan by the end of the year, this dusty district of small bazaars, pastel-colored mosques and Soviet-era housing blocs is bracing for stepped-up attacks on the major government centers in their midst.

“There have been suicide attacks in other

‘There have been suicide attacks in other parts of the city, but this is new for us. No attacks have ever come as close as these.’

Abdel Qassim
Qasaba resident

parts of the city, but this is new for us,” Qasaba resident Abdel Qassim, 28, said of the two attacks that took place here last month. Dozens of local children romped playfully by his side, while women hung back, coddling babies in the shaded gardens that line the residential street.

“No attacks have ever come as close as these,” he said.

In the first assault, on July 16, bullets and shrapnel from the battle between gunmen who laid siege to the airport and Afghan security forces careened into the modest apartments where Qassim and roughly 1,000 other families live. They emerged unscathed. But less than a week later and just blocks away, an explosion from a suicide bomber attacking a nearby foreign compound rippled through the early morning calm.

For residents of Qasaba in Kabul's north-eastern reaches — where there are more watchtowers than trees and more armored cars than Afghanistan's famed, fragrant rose

buses — theirs is a story of a once-quiet community now grappling with the encroaching violence.

People here attribute the rise in violence to a newly paved road that they say allows militants to more easily slip in and out unnoticed, and to a large construction site that police said insurgents used to stage the airport attack after disguising themselves as workers.

“There are no police here, only at the juncture,” complained Abdel Kamel, a young journalist, gesturing toward where the local bazaar selling bread, sweets, and petrol-filled jerry cans meets the main road.

Where the mountain slope reaches the paved highway several blocks away, the Afghan defense ministry's main supply base, a vast compound encircled by earth-filled barriers monopolizes the landscape.

“I grew up with war, but the children,” Qassim said, trailing off. “We wish the bases would move.”



PHOTOS BY HOLLY PICKETT/For The Washington Post

Shah Rahman stands outside his bakery in the Qasaba district of Kabul, Afghanistan. Militants staged two attacks in a week from the neighborhood, including a pre-dawn raid on Kabul International Airport and a suicide bombing at a nearby unit of the Afghan Interior Ministry.




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WORLD

EU agrees to new set of sanctions on Russia

By JÜRGEN BAETZ

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union has decided to slap Russia with new economic sanctions over its actions in Ukraine, diplomats said Thursday.

The sanctions will further curb access to European capital markets for Russian firms and banks, limit exports of certain high-technology goods and target several officials with travel bans and asset freezes, diplomats told The

Associated Press in Brussels.

The sanctions will take effect Friday following their publication in the EU's official journal but will be reversible if the situation in eastern Ukraine improves, four diplomats said independently. They spoke on condition of anonymity pending the official announcement.

A summit of EU leaders almost two weeks ago called for the new sanctions to be finalized, but they were then twice postponed to assess the impact of a cease-fire

in eastern Ukraine. The United States previously said it was also considering new sanctions once the EU moves forward, and could now take that step as early as Thursday.

The new sanctions are expected to deepen earlier penalties targeting Russia's oil and arms sectors, including a further tightening of access to international capital markets. The current ban on credits and loans to Russian entities with a maturity of more than 90 days will be reduced to 30

days, two diplomats said. Curbing access to western capital markets could weigh down Russia's already-flagging economic growth.

More individuals, including Russian government officials and people close to Russian President Vladimir Putin, are also expected to be sanctioned.

Russia's benchmark MICEV, which was rising on Thursday morning and early afternoon, declined 0.7 percent on the news. The Russian ruble fell to an all-

time low of 37.51 rubles against the U.S. dollar.

Brussels has been more reluctant than Washington to sanction Russia because of its broad economic ties. Moscow is an important gas supplier for many EU nations and it is the bloc's third-largest trading partner overall. The EU's sanctions, however, have more impact than those imposed by the U.S. since the EU is Russia's largest trading partner by far.

Human rights group accuses Israel of war crimes in Gaza

By TIA GOLDENBERG

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A leading international rights group on Thursday alleged that Israel committed war crimes during this summer's Gaza war, saying it reached that conclusion after investigating three attacks on or near United Nations-run schools housing displaced Palestinians.

Human Rights Watch said it investigated the strikes at the schools in three separate locations in the war-battered Gaza Strip, attacks in which at least 45 people were killed.

According to its investigation, based on field research and interviews with witnesses, the New York-based group said no military targets were apparent in the area of the schools and that some of the attacks were indiscriminate.

"The Israeli military carried out attacks on or near three well-marked schools where it knew hundreds of people were taking shelter, killing and wounding scores of civilians," Fred Abrahams, special adviser at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement. "Israel has offered no convincing explanation for these attacks on schools where people had gone for protection and the resulting carnage."

Israel argues that the heavy civilian death toll during the 50-day summer war was Hamas' fault, accusing the Islamic militant group of launching rockets — and drawing retaliation — from schoolyards, residential areas and mosques.

On Wednesday, the Israeli military announced it had launched its own probe into cases involving Palestinian civilian casualties during the war, including the shelling of a U.N. school.

The announcement was apparently meant to send a signal that Israel can police itself as it faces the specter of international war crimes probes.

The brutal Gaza war left more than 2,100 Palestinians dead, the majority of them civilians, according to Palestinian and U.N. officials. Israel says the number of militants killed was much higher and accuses Hamas of using civilians as human shields. On the Israeli side, 66 soldiers and six civilians were killed.

About a quarter of a million Palestinians displaced by the violence were seeking shelter in U.N.-run schools.

In one instance, in an attack on a school in Beit Hanoun on July 24, Israel said it had fired mortars toward Hamas fighters operating near the school in response to anti-tank fire directed at them. The military said one mortar landed in the school courtyard which, according to video footage it released claiming to show the strike, was empty. Human Rights Watch said that seven Palestinian witnesses in the territory ruled by the Hamas militants disputed the claim.

On a strike on July 30, the military said it was again responding to Hamas fire from nearby. Human Rights Watch said Israel provided no evidence for the claim.



SCOTT HEPPELL/AP

Yes signs are displayed Monday in Eyemouth, Scotland, signifying support for secession from the U.K.

Yes camp winning ad battle in Scotland

By PAUL KELBIE

The Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland — When the campaign to keep Scotland in the United Kingdom launched a recent TV ad, the spot went viral — but for all the wrong reasons.

In a kitchen, a woman complains that while her husband can't stop talking about the independence referendum, she doesn't have time to think about voting because she's too busy with housework.

Within hours, spoof videos appeared online, mocking the perceived sexist tone. "The tone of the whole video was completely outdated, sexist and insulting to women," said Sandra Geddes, 33, an office worker who said she plans to vote no on independence even though she was angered by the commercial.

In the battle of the ads in Scotland's independence debate, the Yes camp is scoring the most points — and that may be a fac-

tor in the surge that has given it a chance of winning on Sept. 18 after months trailing far behind. While the "Better Together" campaign has been derided for old-fashioned, even patronizing ads, the breakaway side has engaged voters with a slick, humorous campaign that presents a dynamic picture of Scotland.

The pro-independence camp recently won hearts with a poster of a baby's hand in the tender grip of a parent with the slogan "Scotland's future in Scotland's hands." While it appealed to a sense of family, it didn't smack of conservative "family values" as some of the No campaign's ads are seen as doing. Critics claim pro-unity posters bearing messages such as "we love our kids, we're saying no thanks" are offensive for implying Yes campaign supporters don't love their families.

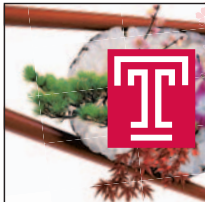
The Yes camp has also effectively targeted younger voters shown in surveys to lean toward independence — with an innova-

tive ad called "My Generation" that portrays a vote for independence as a bold, decisive step.

"Most of the wit has come from the Yes side," said graphic designer and cartoonist Greg Moodie. "I haven't seen much from the No camp, I think it's because 'Better Together' is really the voice of the establishment and it's been pretty stuffy and pompous."

As the battle to decide the future of Scotland and the U.K. enters its final week, both sides have launched some of the largest ad campaigns in Scottish political history. Millions of pounds have been spent to produce countless TV commercials and advertising posters.

But the battle has moved beyond traditional paid media advertisements, with an explosion of uncoordinated social media activity. The pro-independence campaign is seen as being faster and more adept at creating buzz online.



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EUROPE

German far right faces uncertainty after vote

By FRANK JORDANS

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's biggest far-right party, which once fueled fears of a neo-Nazi surge, is now in the doldrums.

While some other European countries are seeing a rise in the far right, the National Democratic Party was booted out of parliament last week in Saxony, one of only two German states where it had lawmakers.

The resulting loss of some 2.5 million euros (\$3.3 million) each year in public funding, which critics have said the NPD used to finance campaigns in other states, could crush a party that was regarded just a few years ago as a magnet for neo-Nazi sentiment in Germany and a threat to the country's postwar reputation. "This could be the beginning of the end for the party as a political force," said Hendrik Traeger, a political scientist at Leipzig University. "Saxony was their stronghold."

It was in the eastern German

state that the NPD received 9.2 percent of the vote in 2004, shocking Germany's political establishment and raising the specter of the country's Nazi past.

The election gave the party 12 seats in the state parliament, a public platform to spread its ideas along with dozens of jobs for far-right activists.

Despite the money, the party had little impact in Saxony, according to Werner J. Patzelt, a political scientist at the Technical University Dresden.

"The NPD failed to fulfill any of the hopes its voters had, it didn't have any credible representatives and skidded from one scandal to another," Patzelt said.

Its former leader in Saxony once referred to Israel as a "Jewish criminal state," party lawmakers refused to honor a minute's silence for victims of the Holocaust, and one deputy calling for the use of hand grenades against "Zionists," a common far-right synonym for Jews.

Apart from Mecklenburg-

Western Pomerania, another eastern state, the NPD failed to emulate its success in Saxony anywhere. At the national level, the party hasn't received more than 1.6 percent in the past decade — far less than the 5 percent needed to enter parliament.

Still, the NPD's limited success was enough for other parties to seek a judicial review that could see it banned for pursuing unconstitutional aims. Germany's domestic intelligence service has long warned that "the NPD aims to abolish the free democratic order" and its positions "show parallels to the programs of the original National Socialists." Meanwhile, the NPD's decline in Saxony has been hastened by the rise of a new party, Alternative for Germany, which has attracted some socially conservative voters who previously voted for the far right by promising to restrict immigration and to promote Christian family values.

Alternative for Germany received 9.7 percent in last week's



MICHAEL SOHN/AP

A party flag flutters on the facade of the headquarters of the German right wing party NPD in Berlin in 2008.

vote, taking more than 10,000 votes from the NPD. The far-right party fell 809 votes short of the 5 percent threshold as a result.

The NPD's fate contrasts with that of other far-right movements in Europe. In France, the National Front received 26 percent of the vote in May's European elections. In Greece, the extremist Golden Dawn party saw 18 lawmakers elected in 2012.

But unlike France and Greece, Germany is going through a period of economic prosperity.

"Back in 2004, the European Union had just opened its doors eastward and the jobless rate in Germany was significantly higher than today," said Traeger. "This allowed the NPD to play on people's fears and prejudices."

Polish president commemorates WWII

BERLIN — Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski commemorated the outbreak of World War II in a speech to the German parliament.

Komorowski spoke at a ceremony Wednesday marking 75 years since Germany's attack on Poland on Sept. 1, 1939.

He recalled the incredible suffering brought to millions of people in countries occupied by Hitler's Germany, but mentioned also the pain and losses of civilians in Germany and its allied countries.

Some 55 million people died in World War II, which ended in 1945.

From The Associated Press



MICHAEL SOHN/AP

Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski speaks Wednesday at the German parliament, Bundestag, in Berlin.

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FAITH



Laundry Love

PHOTOS BY JAE C. HONG/AP

Jose Cortez, 4, sits in a laundry basket while waiting for his mother to finish their laundry during a Laundry Love event Aug. 13 in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Struggling people find free suds, faith at California laundromat

By KRISTA FAURIA
The Associated Press

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. — During the long months that Victoria Mitchell lived in her car with her infant daughter, there was one bright spot in her life: doing laundry.

Every month, Mitchell would trek to a local laundromat and take advantage of Laundry Love, a growing, faith-driven movement that helps those who are homeless or financially struggling by washing their dirty clothes for free.

Amid the comforting routine of fluffing and folding, volunteers befriend their patrons and often find ways to help that go beyond free soap and quarters.

Mitchell, for example, now has a job and a place to live after the Laundry Love volunteers pooled their money to help her family rent a starter apartment. They also have watched her daughter, Jessica, grow from a newborn to a curly-haired toddler.

"You're not just checking a box to give a donation. You're spending the whole evening with these people and getting your hands dirty and it's intimate — you're doing people's laundry," said LuzAnna Figueroa, who volunteers at the group's Huntington Beach chapter and has grown close to Mitchell and her daughter.

Richard Flory, a religion expert from the University of Southern California who has studied Laundry Love extensively, said Mitchell is just one example of how the organization can profoundly affect people through something as simple as washing their clothes.

"It's an opportunity for people to live out their faith in a concrete way, in a frankly

elegantly simple model where you do something that's necessary for people who don't have the means to do it for themselves," Flory said.

The movement began about 10 years ago with a small, Christian church in Ventura, Calif., and has since spread to more than 100 locations throughout the country to people from all faiths.

Christian Kassoff started the Huntington Beach chapter two years ago with his wife, Shannon. On a recent warm, summer night, Kassoff glanced around the laundro-

mat and smiled at the dozens of people who depend on him and the other volunteers for clean laundry each month.

Classic hits from David Bowie and The Clash blasted through speakers as patrons pushed around wheeled metal baskets full of laundry and stuffed loads of dirty clothes — some not washed for weeks — into industrial-sized machines.

Those doing their laundry also lined up outside to eat their fill of tacos as volunteers prayed inside before starting the night's washing.

David Clarke, who has been coming to the laundromat for four months after losing his job as an aerospace machinist, estimates he's saved \$200 on laundry in that time, but said he gets a lot more from the washing sessions than savings.

"These people are wonderful people. They want to know what's going on in your life," he said. "They really care about you and how you're doing."

Kassoff, his arms laced with tattoos, recalled a time in his life just over 10 years ago when he was in a similar situation to many of those who come — addicted to heroin and living in his car. At his lowest point, he said, he started attending services at his local Episcopal church.

His newfound faith, he said, saved his life and motivated him to help others in need.

"I'm not wealthy, but I have the gift of faith and a heart for it, so this fits," Kassoff said.

Flory said that's why the movement has taken off — the simplicity and necessity of washing clothes. The Huntington Beach chapter began as an Episcopal outreach, but now welcomes volunteers of any faith, including members of a local mosque who started showing up recently.

Juan Montes was reluctant to attend Laundry Love several months ago after a friend invited him to volunteer. He now goes every month and looks forward to the conversations he will have, even though his friend has stopped going.

"It's changed me in the way that now when I see people who are homeless, I don't see them like an object. Now their stories come to mind, names come to mind because I've had conversations with them," he said.



People sift through donated food before doing their laundry for free at a laundromat during a Laundry Love event in Huntington Beach. Laundry Love is a growing, faith-driven movement that helps people change their lives by letting them change into clean clothes.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Co-founder of elephant refuge found trampled

ME PORTLAND — Two elephants at a Maine rehabilitation center are being sent back to a sanctuary in Oklahoma in the wake of the crushing death of their caretaker.

Police said veterinarian James Laurita, 56, died Tuesday in the animals' barn in Hope, Maine, when one of animals apparently stepped on him. They ruled his death an accident.

Hope Elephants' board of directors said in a statement Wednesday that the center's two elephants, Rosie and Opal, will return to the elephant care facility where they came from. The Asian elephants came to Hope Elephants from Endangered Ark Foundation in Hugo, Oklahoma, in 2012 after retiring from circus work.

The board statement said Hope Elephants will continue operations in Laurita's honor.

Students back teacher who talks about faith

GA CANTON — Students at a public high school outside Atlanta are rallying behind a teacher who says he's standing up for his Christian beliefs and what he views as his right to talk about Jesus in the classroom.

Hundreds of students poured into hallways at Sequoyah High School Tuesday, holding signs and chanting in support of history teacher John Osborne.

Osborne said he didn't feel supported by administrators, so he decided to take a few days off, he told WXIA-TV. He said he's talked about God at school for years.

Students mistakenly thought the teacher had been terminated, and staged the protest, Cherokee County Schools officials said in a statement. They said he remains employed.

Deputies: Intruder bit woman in 'zombie game'

OR COOS BAY — Authorities in Oregon said a woman was arrested after breaking into a house, pushing a woman down the stairs, pulling her hair, biting her on the face and telling her victim she was playing "the zombie game."

Coos County sheriff's Sgt. Pat Downing said Jessica Rocha is accused of breaking into the home in coastal city of Lakeside early Monday. He said she was drunk and likely high.

Downing said there was no definite explanation for the zombie reference. He said Rocha had property with a sticker that referenced a video game featuring zombies. Deputies also speculate she may have been influenced by a scarecrow contest in the area.

Town resolves 'sticky' ice cream truck issue

MS OCEAN SPRINGS — Summer might be drawing to a close, but it's finally possible to buy a sweet treat from an ice cream truck in Ocean



CHARLES FOX, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/AP

Warming to a challenge

Physicians at Thomas Jefferson University and Hospital in Philadelphia kicked off the "Bucket of Tennis Balls Challenge" this week — a spoof of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge but with an equally serious purpose. Dr. Harish Lavu, top, does the honors for Dr. Jordan Winter, associate professor of surgery. The event will benefit pancreatic cancer research and honor Joe Strub, an avid Philadelphia-area tennis player who died four years ago from the cancer.

Springs.

It took research by two city department heads to compile an ordinance that won approval from city leaders, The Sun Herald reported.

Ocean Springs now allows ice cream trucks, and Mrs. T's Tasty Treats has the first license.

"This should take care of all those rogue ice cream truck drivers," Alderman Matt McDonnell said. "I'm glad we have resolved this sticky situation."

Bicycle rider hit by truck, shot by driver

WA SPOKANE — A pickup truck driver who collided with a bicycle rider in

Spokane is accused of shooting him in the arm.

Witnesses said Gary J. Courtney argued with the cyclist after the Saturday night accident and pulled out a pistol and shot him as he pedaled away.

Court records filed Tuesday say witnesses helped identify the 56-year-old who was booked into jail over the weekend.

Barking puppy alerts family to house fire

NH NEW IPSWICH — A family said a barking puppy saved their lives in alerting them to a fire at their home in New Ipswich.

WMUR-TV reported a father,

mother and their two sons, ages 19 and 11, were home at the time, but were unharmed early Monday.

Firefighters said the puppy, another dog and a cat died in the fire.

Teenager charged with desecrating Jesus statue

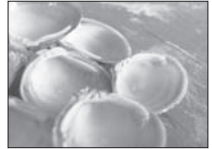
PA EVERETT — A 14-year-old western Pennsylvania boy has been charged with desecrating a statue of Jesus by standing in front of it and mimicking a sex act, and then posting pictures of it on the Internet.

Bedford County officials said the court papers against the boy are sealed, because they're filed

THE CENSUS

3,000

The number of traditional New England clam bake dinners served on the University of Massachusetts' Amherst campus to celebrate the start of the new school year. Chefs also prepared more than 3,000 lobsters, 6,000 little neck clams, 3,000 steamers, more than 6,000 ears of corn and 1,500 pounds of potatoes for students and staff. There was no previous record for largest New England clam bake, but Guinness World Record officials had set a minimum bar at 1,500 meals in eight hours. UMMS reached that mark in about an hour.



in juvenile court.

The Altoona Mirror reported the boy is charged under a rarely used 1972 law that makes it a crime to desecrate a venerated object.

A King's College student was prosecuted under the same law when he urinated on a nativity scene in Wilkes-Barre in January 2010. The student apologized and was accepted into a probation program for first-time offenders.

College students return station's stolen statue

WI STEVENS POINT — The Stevens Point Fire Department has its stolen Boy with the Boot statue back.

Capt. Charles Skibba told WSAW-TV that two University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students returned the statue to Station One on Saturday morning. He said they admitted to taking it as part of a bet and keeping it in their dorm room.

The two students were issued citations. Skibba said they'll likely face misdemeanor charges and will have to pay restitution to fix the damage.

Crackdown on dress code forces cover-ups

NY NEW YORK — Dozens of Staten Island high school students are fuming over a dress code crackdown that forced them to cover up on a steamy day.

The Staten Island Advance reported that Friday's crackdown at Tottenville High School affected at least 100 students, mostly girls. The students had to either cover up or wait in the school auditorium until a parent arrived with appropriate attire.

The school's dress code prohibits tank tops, low-cut blouses and halter tops.

Shorts and skirts are supposed to be at "relaxed hand level."

WEEKEND

Prime Time

PREVIEW

AFN's lineup includes some of this season's most anticipated TV shows

Page 24

The land of Austen

Bath fest offers many delights for author's fans to soak up

Travel, Page 30



Sacred heights

Mountain in western Japan a heavy-metal experience

Travel, Page 35



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



Screenshot from wired.com

The Fetch camera-carrying harness from GoPro captures shots from both over-the-head and chest-high viewpoints on your dog's outings.

Gone to the dogs

Camera-carrying harness allows your pooch to gather his own pics

By PATRICK MAY
San Jose Mercury News

GoPro recently unveiled Fetch, its new camera-carrying harness that will turn your hiking dog into the next Hitchcock.

GoPro, of course, is the red-hot San Mateo-based maker of affordable, wearable, mountable, submersible and incredibly cool high-definition personal cameras, often favored by the extreme sports set.

After going public recently, GoPro has made realized that many of its camera-owning customers had been going nuts at attaching their GoPros to not only their surfboards, mountain bikes and snowboards, but also to their pets at home. YouTube is awash with homemade movies shot with the help of a GoPro-carrying turtle, kitten, dachshund or pony.

You can see how addictive this behavior might become? Well, GoPro did, and now we have

Fetch, as described here by its makers:

Digging, running, swimming, hunting and exploring — dogs can now showcase their world using the new Fetch mount from GoPro, Inc., the company's first pet accessory. The Fetch dog harness has two mount locations for HERO cameras — one on the back for over-the-head shots and another on the chest for a field of view closer to all the action. The fully adjustable mount is designed to fit small dogs of 125 pounds to large breeds up to 120 pounds.

"The adaptability and versatility of GoPro cameras make them the perfect device to document life from a dog's point of view," said Paul Osborne, GoPro's senior director of product management.

The Fetch harness costs \$59.99. The camera, of course, is NOT included, but you can grab a GoPro HERO3 for under \$200.

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE L. MIRACORE/Stars and Stripes

GADGET WATCH

Alarm clock a real hoot (or crow)

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Projects G-Buzz is a portable alarm clock built with a rugged exterior and all of today's digital features, including the sounds of a rooster.

It can be powered by AC or four AAA batteries (not included) and has two alarms with five wake-up sounds. They include a traditional annoying buzzer, which would wake anyone up, along with roosters crowing, bells chiming, drums drumming and foghorns blowing.

If you need help falling asleep, turn on the soothing sound of waves crashing, crickets, white noise or owls hooting.

There's a USB port for charging most smartphones or tablets, a line-in port for playing music from another device and an internal FM radio.

The G-Buzz has a creative way to ensure you're up after the alarm goes off, assuming you didn't hit the snooze button. Described as Shake to Wake, it's built with an internal motion sensor so let you shake the alarm clock to turn it off.

Online: gprojectgear.com; \$29.99

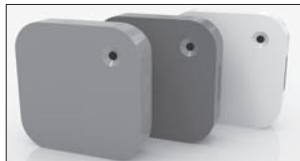


The Narrative Clip is the world's smallest (1.42-x-1.42-x-0.35 inches) wearable camera, GPS and accelerometer-integrated device that automatically snaps photos as you go.

The device fits into the trendy category of wearable technology and enables people's instant need to tell the world where they are, what they're doing and who's around them via social media.

The camera has settings for taking a photo at intervals, such as every 30 seconds; you can also press the button to take an image with the 5-megapixel camera.

A stainless steel clip attaches to your clothing, or you can even be clever and hide the camera to really go undercover. Obviously you must make sure the lens is not covered.



MCT photos

The Narrative Clip wearable camera connects to your clothing, enabling you to subtly capture every moment of your life as it's happening.

The camera takes a photo whenever the lens sees something. To shut it off, turn it face down or just place it in your pocket.

To take a photo manually, just tap the front.

An internal battery lasts up to two days depending on usage and can store 4,000 images in the 8GB of internal memory. A microUSB port is used for charging and connecting to your computer for download.

Possibly the coolest feature is the built-in accelerometer that keeps your image's orientation correct no matter how it's worn.

The Narrative Clip does everything as advertised. There's even a free Narrative app to help keep your photos organized.

Online: getnarrative.com; \$279, available in arctic white, graphite gray and orange

A-Audio headphones are produced by a new company, which is probably the reason I'd never heard of them before I tested them.

First, before I heard a single note of music, the over-the-head Legacy headphones passed the first test — they're quite comfortable.

Their padded ear cups with memory foam make them feel great. Inside each ear cup is a 40mm custom driver.

They're built with Three Stage Listening Technology, which A-Audio points out are the only headphones to offer that.

This technology can be changed with a switch on the headset to customize the sound with bass enhancer, active noise cancellation and audio modes.

On a noisily flight, the active noise cancellation is handy, and on the ground, since I'm a bass junkie, the bass enhancer is perfect.

With all options, the sound is crystal clear, and the comfort makes you forget you have them on.

A lot of attention clearly was given to the development of the design and look of the headphones.

Along with the padded ear cups, they are made with chrome-plating, steel construction (polishing cloth included) with zinc hinges for durability.

The leather headband has diamond-quilted stitching, and the rotating ear cups have anti-vibration octagonal aluminum bezels, which I have to admit is the first time I've heard that term.

They collapse for easy storage in the included case and include cables for hands-free calls and a dual jack for sharing your music.

Online: A-Audio.com; \$299, available in Liquid Chrome and Matte Phantom Black



ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for Sept. 10:

- "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift
- "Centuries," Fall Out Boy
- "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
- "Bang Bang," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
- "Two Night Town," Jason Aldean
- "Maps," Maroon 5
- "Burnin' It Down," Jason Aldean
- "Blame," Calvin Harris
- "Ratner Be (featuring Jess Glynne)," Clean Bandit
- "Breathe Free (featuring Zedd)," Ariana Grande

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The most streamed tracks on Spotify from Sept. 1-7:

- "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
- "Break Free," Ariana Grande
- "Bang Bang," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
- "Chandelier," Sia
- "Black Widow," Iggy Azalea
- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Anastacia," Nicki Minaj
- "Maps," Maroon 5
- "Shower," Becky G

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for Sept. 10:

- "Live Die Repeat: Edge of Tomorrow"
- "Captain America: The Winter Soldier"
- "A Million Ways to Die in the West"
- "Fad Up"
- "Joe"
- "Draft Day"
- "Blended"
- "The Longest Week"
- "The Other Woman"
- "Brick Mansions"



— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

The Top 10 Xbox 360 games for September:

- "Destiny," Activision
- "Diablo III: Reaper of Souls Ultimate Evil Edition," Blizzard
- "The Walking Dead Season Two Episode Five: No Going Back," Telltale Games
- "Madden NFL 15," EA Sports
- "Dark Souls II: Crown of the Old Iron King," Bandai Namco
- "Ultra Street Fighter IV," Capcom
- "Dark Souls II: Crown of the Sunken King," Bandai Namco
- "Wolfenstein: The New Order," Bethesda
- "Watch Dogs," Ubisoft
- "GRID Autosport," Codemasters

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for Sept. 10:

ANDROID

- Angry Birds Stella
- Diamond Digger Saga
- Madden NFL Mobile
- Wipeout 2
- Jump Jump Ninja

Top 5 free apps for Sept. 10:

APPLE

- Facebook Messenger
- The Tower
- Angry Birds Stella
- Yik Yak
- Free Music Download

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

NEW FROM U2: Find what you weren't looking for

If you're one of the 500 million users of iTunes, you now have U2's brand-new album, "Songs of Innocence," for free. Surprise!

Bono told "Rolling Stone" in an interview on Monday that the band looked to its roots for inspiration for the new album. Bono says band members listened to the music they loved from the '70s, which inspired the album's first single, "The Miracle (of Joey Ramone)."

"We wanted to make a very personal album," Bono said. "Let's try to figure out why we wanted to be in a band, the relationships around the band, our lovers, our family."

- Read more about the album's release at apple.com/U2/#play
- Album review on Page 36.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

U2 members Bono, left, and Larry Mullen Jr. perform during an announcement of new products by Apple on Sept. 9 in Cupertino, Calif. Apple released U2's previously unannounced new album, "Songs of Innocence," onto iTunes minutes later.

2

Old-school hero on DVD

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier" gives viewers double the superhero fun with Black Widow joining its titular hero to uncover and bring down sinister forces. Need more convincing? Two words: Robert Redford.

- More new DVD releases on Page 39.



3

Enjoy the bounty of fall: TV's guilty pleasures

It's no longer news that some of the best stories are being told these days on television, not the movies. But those who want to relax and unwind in front of the tube shouldn't despair — there's still plenty to keep us mindlessly entertained. Among the impending season premieres are "Family Feud," hosted by Steve Harvey, and "Dancing with the Stars." These should tide us over until the meatier stuff arrives in a few weeks.

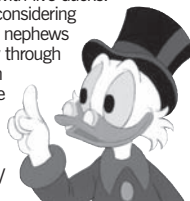
- 'Family Feud' season begins Sept. 16 on AFN-Prime; Harvey interview on Page 39.
- 'Dancing with the Stars' premieres its 19th season Sept. 16 on AFN-Spectrum.

4

Quack up to new 'Duck Tales' intro

Ready for your weekly dose of "awwwww"? Oh My Disney has re-created the introduction to the popular animated "Duck Tales" from the late '80s with live ducks. Quite a challenge, considering that Donald Duck's nephews dive into money, fly through space and run from monsters during the montage.

- 'Duck Tales' intros old and new at tinyurl.com/n63bmbu



WEEKEND: FALL TV PREVIEW

Season's Best

* New shows worthy of a first-night look

It's a time-honored rite harking back to an era of black-and-white TV's and the trio of networks whose programs they delivered: the grand unveiling of new fall fare. As part of the ritual, this latest fall crop is an occasion for handicapping the good and the misfires.

Granted, it's a risky business to rate a new series'

prospects on the basis of its pilot episode, which is typically the only thing critics have to go on. But even if it doesn't guarantee a great series will follow, a pilot must at least trigger interest at a level to get viewers to return the second week.

Here are 10 series that might catch your fancy:



"GOTHAM" (Sept. 28 on AFN-Spectrum):

In an industry where nothing is a sure thing, fall's most-awaited show by the most-desirable demo would seem to be a sure thing. "Gotham" turns out to be not only an origin series about Batman but also a humdringer of a noir crime thriller. Rolling back the clock to when Bruce Wayne was a youngster, the series lays the groundwork for the Batman myth while introducing not-yet-Commissioner James Gordon (Ben McKenzie) as a rookie cop.



"RED BAND SOCIETY" (Sept. 21 on

AFN-Pulse): Teenagers meet as patients in the pediatric ward of a Los Angeles hospital. Sure, a show that gathers kids to frolic, flirt and even face death sounds like "Glee" without the jazz hands. But what could have been an overglorified rendering of life's gravest moments instead comes with heart and a dose of authenticity that ground the good times.



"THE FLASH" (Oct. 12 on AFN-Spectrum):

A young man, Barry Allen, awakens from a coma after being struck by lightning, only to find he has the power of superspeed. Ipso facto, he becomes a superhero. It's more complicated, of course, but what really matters is: This version of a familiar comic-book stud feels refreshingly re-thought, and should satisfy fans as well as those who have never found their way into the Flash ethos. It stars Grant Gustin, who, in his grand unveiling as Barry's fleet-footed alter ego, eschews the familiar red long Johns in favor of a different kind of uniform. Message: This is a new brand of Flash.



"MARRY ME" (Oct. 20 on AFN-Pulse):

Annie is flighty. Jake is settled and eternally amused by Annie's zaniness. Just and Annie aren't yet married — just dating for six-years-and-counting, with Annie more than ready for Jake to pop the question. On this slender premise hang the ample comic gifts of co-stars Ken Marino and Casey Wilson.



"BLACK-ISH" (Sept. 26 on AFN-Prime):

The versatile Anthony Anderson stars as Andre, a determined patriarch who sets out to restore (or is it establish?) a sense of cultural identity for his middle-class African-American family which, he worries, is ethnically unmoored. Andre's concern isn't shared by his biracial wife, Rainbow (Tracee Ellis Ross), or their four kids. But Andre frets about "keeping it real." This is a clever premise, whose black-centricity has plenty to say about the pros and cons of assimilation by any group. It's a lot of Deep Thoughts packed into a fluffy sitcom, but "black-ish" seems up to the challenge.



"MANHATTAN LOVE STORY": Girl meets guy in the Big Apple. She's new in town and full of romantic yearnings. He's a true Gothamite who lives the sporting life. And, of course, opposites attract. Meanwhile, the audience is privy to their innermost thoughts about dating and other pressing matters via the characters' voiceovers. This "Love Story," starring winsome Analiegh Tipton and Jake McDormann, touches the heart and, more important, the funny bone.

WEEKEND: FALL TV PREVIEW



"THE MYSTERIES OF LAURA" (Sept. 25 on AFN-Spectrum): Debra Messing stars as a brilliant, rules-breaking NYPD homicide detective and harried single mother whose estranged detective-husband becomes her boss. (Awkward!) Messing ("Will & Grace") has an indisputable gift for comedy. Here she's arresting as a brassy, disheveled cop in a series that clearly wants to match the light-comedy tone of the long-ago "Columbo." "Mysteries" has its cops-and-robbers element, but it's mostly helter-skelter fun.



"BAD JUDGE": Good judge, bad girl: That's the character Kate Walsh tackles on this new sitcom. Judge Rebecca Wright is unforgiving on the bench but an unapologetic party animal elsewhere. Walsh presides with little judicial restraint on a show you'll find guilty of selective racism and plenty of laughs.



"JANE THE VIRGIN" (Oct. 16 on AFN-Pulse): The one-line description of this series seems like a cruelty joke: Jane Villanueva, an effervescent young Miami woman with her eyes trained on the future and her knees clamped virtuously together, is mistakenly impregnated with a specimen meant for someone else. And to add a further twist, the specimen came from the owner of the luxury hotel that employs Jane as a waitress. The wonder of this series is that it feels fully plausible, authentic and delightful, unfolding in a multicultural world with the irresistible Gina Rodriguez in the title role. Time will tell if its grand ambitions outstrip its ability to deliver, but in the short term it succeeds in the thing a TV series rarely does: It keeps you guessing what will happen next.

Photos by AP, respective networks



"HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER" (Sept. 26 on AFN-Spectrum): A legendary attorney is fearless in the courtroom representing society's worst criminals. Then she's fearless in the classroom as she drills a no-holds-barred philosophy of law into her students — and she selects a group of her top students to work at her law firm, where they fall under her spell as they help tackle her toughest cases. "Murder" promises to be twisty, wicked, dark and fun. And it stars Viola Davis, who brings life to a character of endless calculations and mystery.

Critic: 'Scorpion' is overhyped

The Washington Post

Washington Post critic Hank Stuever hosts a weekly online chat to talk all things TV. On the minds of readers recently: whether we should be wary of relentless ad campaigns.

New show promos

When a network heavily advertises a new show (I see nonstop ads for CBS's "Scorpion"), what are they really doing? Is it because they fear it won't do well (so it needs all the help it can get), it's a 50/50 show that could go either way (so a little promotion goes a long way) or are they just downright proud of it? In the case of CBS, I couldn't tell you what their other new fall shows are, but I certainly know about "Scorpion." (The series premieres on AFN-Prime on Sept. 27.)

Stuever: And I will go ahead and tell you that "Scorpion" is easily one of the worst, dumbest shows that CBS is bringing out this fall. (And "Madam Secretary" is one of the best.) I think the networks go way overboard on the ads for new shows, beginning in summer. By the time it gets here, a viewer has a built-in bias against it, just because of the relentless ad campaign. Premium cable channels are often much better at creating a sense of mystery with their promos — just enough to make you curious and not so much that you get sick of it.



'Madam Secretary' vs. 'State of Affairs'

Which female-blond-breaking-rules-in-Washington, D.C., will make it to a second season? Or will both be "terminated with extreme prejudice"?

Stuever: "Madam Secretary" (left, premiering on AFN-Prime Sept. 22) delivers one of the sturdiest pilots of the season, and I've always liked Tea Leoni.

And you know what about "State of Affairs" (right, premiering on AFN-Prime Nov. 18)? It's far better than I expected it to be and no more ludicrous than most of the action/espionage/anti-terror shows we already watch.

I think both shows stand a decent chance.

'Greatest American Hero'

What's this about Fox wanting to do a reboot of the series? Didn't they learn the lesson from "The Bionic Woman"?

Stuever: Yes, there was a report that Fox might be considering a reboot of "Greatest American Hero." ("Believe it or not, I'm walking on air...") That "Bionic Woman" reboot in 2006 was NBC's problem. These shows will keep coming back round and round, because sometimes you get a hit ("Hawaii Five-O," "Dallas") even though you get a lot of duds ("Charlie's Angels," "Ironside"). I'll bet there's not a single show from the 1980s or '90s that doesn't have a reboot rattling around in development or pitch meetings somewhere. Reincarnation is just part of television's circle of life.



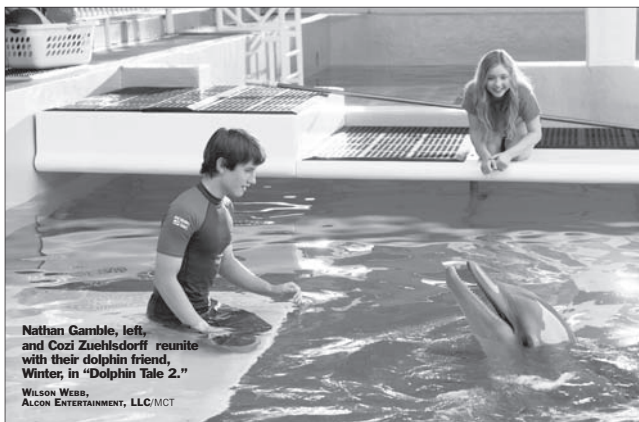
Also coming to AFN

AFN is set to add 14 new prime-time shows this fall. Here are a few more:

- **"Selfie,"** with John Cho, starts Oct. 2 on AFN-Family.
- **"NCIS: New Orleans,"** premieres Sept. 24 on AFN-Prime with Scott Bakula.

- **"A to Z,"** with "How I Met Your Mother" mother Cristin Milioti, debuts Oct. 6 on AFN-Pulse.
- **"Stalker,"** with "Nikita" star Maggie Q and "The Practice" star Dylan McDermott, premieres Oct. 2 on AFN-Prime.
- For more: tinyurl.com/afnfalltv

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Nathan Gamble, left, and Cozi Zuehlsoff reunite with their dolphin friend, Winter, in "Dolphin Tale 2."

WILSON WEBB, ALCON ENTERTAINMENT, LLC/MCT

Life-changing roles

Committed as ever, teen stars return for 'Dolphin Tale 2'

By ROGER MOORE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

It had been three long years since Nathan Gamble and Cozi Zuehlsoff, the two kids who befriended Winter the injured dolphin, made "Dolphin Tale" with the world's first dolphin with a prosthetic tail.

Would Winter remember them for the sequel? You really don't know for sure, Zuehlsoff says. But she and Gamble want to believe.

"There was a time when we were filming a pool scene where me and Winter were just chilling, between takes, in the water with a trainer," says Gamble, already a veteran child actor ("The Dark Knight") when he was cast in the original film. "I tilted my head to the left, and Winter bubbled and let herself sink way down in the pool. I thought that was weird, but her trainer said 'Oh my gosh, Nathan, that was one of the commands we taught you to give her in the first film! You tilt your head, she bubbles and sinks to the bottom.' So she remembered this thing we had her do in the first film, years before. Isn't that cool?"

The two young players — just 12 when they made the first film, 16 now as "Dolphin Tale 2" comes out — sound perfectly sincere when talking about Clearwater (Fla.) Aquarium's little disabled dolphin and how the movie they made about her changed their lives. It has nothing to do with their careers as child actors, but everything to do with Winter and what she means to the disabled who travel to the Gulf Coast of Florida from all over the country to see her.

"After the first film, we signed

'I've met many children with disabilities. It's a special privilege, but it's so hard. ... It puts your life into perspective, and in my case, I think it's made me more mature.'

Cozi Zuehlsoff

on as spokespeople for the aquarium," Zuehlsoff says. "We get to come back there, three times a year, and meet a lot of the kids that Winter and 'Dolphin Tale' inspired. So I've met many children with disabilities. It's a special privilege, but it's so hard, because so many of these kids don't have much time left. It puts your life into perspective, and in my case, I think it's made me more mature and more empathetic, hopefully."

It's not every child, much less a child actor, who meets hundreds of people with injuries or cancer patients who have lost limbs, at such a young age. But when "Dolphin Tale" became the sleeper hit of 2011, that responsibility came with the territory. Gamble says that "When I was filming 'Dolphin Tale,' I really didn't see, firsthand, the larger impact that this little injured dolphin has had on people. But after the movie came out, I had people coming up to me, telling me how inspired

they'd been, how it touched on something their family had been going through. Very emotional. It got me pumped up to do the second film, because I realized how important Winter is to a lot of people, and how these movies get that message to more people."

"Dolphin Tale" opened to tear-stained reviews written by jaded movie critics shocked to be touched by a very simple kid-friendly film about an injured dolphin, taken to Clearwater Marine Aquarium's hospital, where dedicated staff and a prosthetic limb designer willing to think outside the box concocted a replacement tail for the one she'd lost in a crab pot (trap).

The true story was fictionalized, and the most important fictional elements were the two kids, who devote themselves to Winter, Sawyer and Hazel, played by Gamble and Zuehlsoff.

They were "the toughest roles to cast," opined Chris Hewitt of the St. Paul Pioneer-Press, "but both young actors are terrific."

"I think we were all shocked at how much that film touched people," Gamble says. "You hope you've made a hit, but this one connected in a way I hadn't expected."

"I was talking about this with Nathan, and not one of these children has a frown on their face when they come there," Zuehlsoff says. "They're all so special, and so grown up. It's an odd thing to get used to, meeting people even younger than me who are so mature. It has to be their perspective. They're going through such horrific things. It makes you grow up. Just being around them makes me grow up a little, too."

'Dolphin Tale' sequel holds interest for younger viewers

By ROGER MOORE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

You might have thought "Dolphin Tale," the sleeper hit kids' film of a few falls back, was a complete, compact and uplifting story that didn't really need a second act.

And if so, you were on the money.

A fictionalized account of the true story of Winter, a badly injured dolphin rescued by the Clearwater (Fla.) Marine Aquarium, and how a prosthetic tail was fabricated for her allowing her to swim and survive and inspire veterans, cancer survivors and accident victims of all ages with her pluck, "Dolphin Tale" covered all the bases.

So "Dolphin Tale 2" feels, in its best moments, like little more than "Winter's Greatest Hits." The dolphin is in trouble again, the embattled aquarium faces the threat of losing custody of the dolphins it is rehabilitating, and Morgan Freeman shows up in the third act to complain about how tiny a baby dolphin they're caring for is.

"I pulled anchovies off PIZZAS that were bigger than that!"

Actor-director Charles Martin Smith built his follow-up story around Winter losing her companion dolphin. Aquariums are required to pair up these very social animals as a provision of keeping them. Winter, losing her pal, seems depressed.

The aquarium, spruced up, well-financed and successful now that Winter has become a star attraction, has to find her a friend, a distressed dolphin that isn't able to return to the wild. Sawyer, her human pal (Nathan Gamble), is so worried about this crisis that he might pass up the chance to attend a sea school where bright, aspiring marine biologists can get a taste of what the profession will be like.

Whatever else these films are, Smith, star of "Never Cry Wolf," gets the righteous work of such aquariums right. Harry Connick Jr., the no-nonsense aquarium director and father of Sawyer's gal-pal Hazel (Cozi Zuehlsoff), refuses to bend the mission to save Winter.

"Rescue Rehab Release." The government guidelines might be inconvenient (Smith plays the inspector who lays down the law), but the adults don't question their necessity.

And the rescue and release sequence go to great pains to show how this delicate work is handled, how labor intensive it is and how rewarding it can be to return a dolphin or injured sea turtle to the wild.

But the life around the aquarium, with its cranky penguin (fried) to the injured turtle strains to be amusing. Smith peoples the film with the same cast, including Kris Kristofferson

New on base

"Dolphin Tale 2" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe
Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunsum.

Pacific
Atsugi, Misawa, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Fleet, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: dolphintale2.com

as Hazel's grandpa and Tom Nowicki as the aquarium's benefactor. There just isn't enough for them all to do. Freeman gets all the few funny lines, which are all the same.

"I've got jars of peanut butter older'n you!"

Still, seeing what Winter can mean to a disabled child, the educational side of the story and the adorable animals make this every bit as child-friendly as the original. And if it's more about "teachable moments" than fun ones, at least "Dolphin Tale 2" will hold the interest of its youngest viewers while it teaches, which is all any parent can hope for from a kids' film.

"Dolphin Tale 2" is rated PG for some mild thematic elements. Running time: 104 minutes.

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THUR SEPT 11 - WED SEPT 17
Don't miss the Planes of the Americas (PG-13): Fri 18:00, Sat & Sun 15:30
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13): Thur 16:00, 20:30; Fri 15:30, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30; Sat 13:30, 15:30, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30; Sun 13:30, 15:30, 18:00, 20:15, 18:15, 20:30
Mon - Wed 16:00

If I Stay (PG-13): Thur & Fri 16:00, Sat & Sun 15:30
Hercules (PG-13): Fri 16:00, Sat & Sun 15:45

How to train your Dragon 2 (PG): Thur 16:00, Sat & Sun 13:30, Mon - Wed 16:00

Lucky (PG-13): Thur 19:00, Fri 18:45, Sat & Sun 13:30, 18:45, Mon - Wed 19:00

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13): Thur & Fri 16:00, Sat & Sun 15:45, Mon - Wed 16:00

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WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of frankfurt-tourismus.de

Frankfurt's Dippemess, a fun fair that occurs in spring and fall, combines carnival fun with a market.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Swiss wrestling on high

It's hard to get more Swiss than this: watching *Schwingen*, the country's particular style of wrestling, in the highest venue it's ever been staged.

The first edition of the Gornegrat Swingfest takes place this weekend on a mountaintop just east of Zermatt in a part of the Pennine Alps offering stunning vistas of 4,000-meter peaks, including the Matterhorn. *Schwingen* is a form of wrestling performed in a sawdust ring, usually outdoors. Competitors wear over their outer garments burlap shorts with a slit that allows an opponent to grasp the belt. Matches are won by pinning the opponent's shoulder blades to the ground without losing a grip on the shorts.

Saturday's events take place at Riffelberg beginning at 9:30 a.m. and include a side program of alpine horns, yodeling and other traditional forms of music. Matches get underway beginning at 10 a.m., with the final rounds at 5:30 p.m. On Sunday, family day, there will be demonstrations beginning at 11:15 a.m. of a similar form of wrestling done in South Korea. At 1:15 p.m., Air Zermatt performs an aerobatics show. A concert by a folk band beginning at 2 p.m. concludes the festivities.

Since the games will take place at 2,500 meters high, a spectator's first battle will be



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

to reach this auto-free venue. Adult entry to the area, including rail tickets from Zermatt up the mountain to the Riffelberg station, costs 31 Swiss francs

(about \$34) for either day; tickets available at train stations. Hotels in the area offer various package deals combining event entry and overnight stays. Learn more at tinyurl.com/potbn6k.

Marostica's chess game

Ever feel like a pawn in someone else's game? The participants in Marostica's human chess game, playing out on four occasions through Sunday, can relate to that.

Marostica, a community located some 20 miles north of Vicenza, Italy, organizes this unusual match on even-numbered years only. The event is based on a 20th-century play whose action takes place in about the year 1454. It tells the tale of two suit-

ors who fall in love with the same woman, a daughter of the town's governor. The governor, who is against violence, suggests the two settle their rivalry through a game of chess.

Nowadays this event is played out across a spacious marble chess board in the city's Castle Square with re-enactors in elegant period costumes serving as the pieces. Soldiers, knights, dancers and musicians augment the cast.

Performances are staged at 9 p.m. Friday through Sunday, with an additional Sunday performance at 5 p.m. Ticket prices range from 16.50 (about \$21.75) to 88 euros, plus service charges when purchased online. Get details and find a link for purchases

at marosticasacchi.it.

Children's fun in Trier

The kids might not want to leave the city limits of Trier, Germany, on Saturday, when the 17th edition of Trier Spielt, or Trier Plays Games, takes over the squares and streets. More than one hundred activities, many hands-on, promise to keep all ages busy and entertained. Creative types might want to fashion items out of felt, decorate a photo frame or embellish their very own elephant with mosaic pieces. Sportier types might enjoy watching the skateboarder meet-up in front of the Basilicum, giving Chinese martial arts a try, or seeing how hard they can kick a ball. Budding scientists can test their knowledge about science and technology or discover fun facts about water or flowers.

Other ways to spend the day include watching puppet shows, driving small cars, getting one's face painted or searching for treasure buried in sand. Even the family pet can get in on the action at the dog agility course.

A stage at the Hauptmarkt is the place to be to watch hip-hop, ballet and other forms of dancing performed by area clubs and schools. The fun gets underway at 10 a.m. and continues until about 6 p.m.

Learn more at city-initiative-trier.de/trier-spielt (German only).



Courtesy of marosticasacchi.it

In four performances from Friday through Sunday, re-enactors in elegant period costumes serve as living chess pieces in Marostica, a community located about 20 miles north of Vicenza, Italy.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

A ticket to ride

Italian ranch makes a great place to indulge one's inner cowpoke

By JASON DUHR
Stars and Stripes

Agriturismo al Ranch, along a mountain highway near Aviano Air Base, offers visitors the chance to ride horses and partake in what feels like a real cowboy experience.

The ranch is home to more than 30 horses, including white Arabians, chocolate-brown quarter horses and the distinctly spotted Appaloosa.

At the entrance, an inviting sign greets visitors: "Horses are angels with invisible wings."

Horses can be found all around the ranch, some being groomed while others roam the surrounding green hills.

There are two riding trails, each covering three miles, enough for about an hour of riding.

Whether beginners or experts, riders start their hour of horseback riding in the indoor arena, where they get instructions and guidelines on how to follow the trail. You can get a pre-prepped horse or, if you're more experienced, choose one of your own liking.

Guides will accompany each group taken out on a trail — unless you own or lease a horse on the ranch. Rides must be booked in advance because the number of visitors varies from week to week.

If you work up a thirst after your ride, you might want to quench it with a drink called elderflower water.

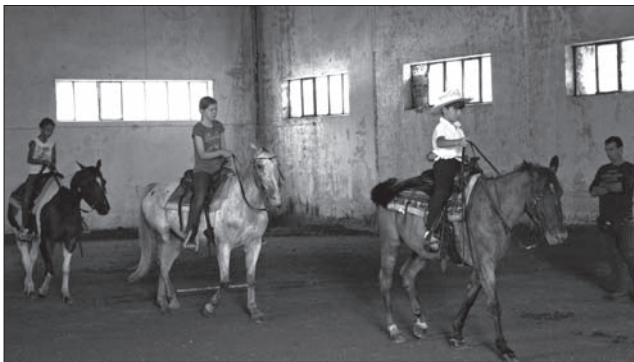
When I arrived at the ranch, Mauro Ginnelli, the ranch's manager and maker of the non-alcoholic drink, introduced me to it. It's made from the heavily scented elderberry plant, which can be seen on nature walks throughout Italy. I was immediately seduced by the sweet flavors of the flower as I enjoyed the blue sky from a table outside the tavern while talking to Ginnelli.

Ginnelli, who speaks better English than I sometimes do, is at the ranch every day and more than happy to chat with and assist American visitors.

Making drinks is only one of his jobs. Another is creating pizzas in a stone oven.

An hour of horseback riding can also make you hungry. Fortunately, a western-themed tavern — Osteria Dei Poeti, or Tavern of Poets — offers many dishes prepared from foods grown right there. Oregano, parsley, peppers, green beans, lettuce and tomatoes are just a few of the home-grown ingredients used by the cooks. Freshly made buffalo mozzarella is delivered daily.

If one of those foods appeals to you, the tavern serves a nice cut of grilled buffalo, accompanied



PHOTOS BY JASON DUHR/Stars and Stripes

Children take riding lessons from Ivan Ceolin, who is in charge of the horses at Agriturismo al Ranch in Budoia, Italy. The ranch has more than 30 horses and features two riding trails.



An Appaloosa takes a short break from the sun under the shade of an awning at the ranch.



Animal skulls hang on a tree near a teepee at the campgrounds of Agriturismo al Ranch.

by a medley of seasonal vegetables. The restaurant's menu changes daily.

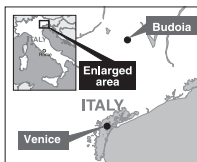
And what would a ranch be without country music? Every Thursday is country music night; Texan Don Ried, who first arrived in the region some 20 years ago, is a Thursday regular.

The ranch has been open about 20 years and has many other attractions, including a camping area near the tavern. If camping isn't your style, 10 simple rooms are available, each with air conditioning and a private bathroom.

duhr.jason@stripes.com



Not all the four-legged creatures at the ranch are horses. Here, a goat enjoys the cool ground on a cloudy day. Other animals on view include donkeys, chickens, yaks and a llama.



BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

The address of Agriturismo al Ranch (also listed on the Internet as Agriturismo Pincavallo) is Via Pedemontana Occidentale 40, 33070 Budoia (Pordenone), Italy.

TIMES

The ranch is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. It also will schedule rides on Mondays and Tuesdays upon request. Hours for those who book rides may vary. Its tavern opens for lunch at noon and for dinner at 6:30 p.m.

COSTS

A one-hour ride costs 15 euros (about \$20.25) per person or 140 euros for 10 one-hour sessions. For children younger than 8, a 10-minute ride is available for 5 euros from 11 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and Sundays.

Campsites rent for 15 euros per night. Rooms cost 50 euros per person a night.

FOOD

A western-themed tavern, Osteria Dei Poeti (Tavern of Poets), changes its menu daily. In addition to pizza, it serves grilled buffalo and many dishes prepared from foods grown on the ranch.

INFORMATION

Horseback rides must be booked in advance at (+39) 3292-175777 or (+39) 3343-425980. Ranch telephone: (+39) 0434-653044; website: agriturismoalranch.it; index.htm (in Italian only); Facebook: facebook.com/OsteriaDeiPoetiAIRanch; program for upcoming bands and events: ciampore.it (some English).

— Jason Duhr

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BROOME/Stars and Stripes

An employee assembles burritos at Taco Kidd Tex-Mex restaurant in Kaiserslautern. Taco Kidd is one of a number of fast-casual burrito eateries to open in the area recently, but falls short of the standard of some American chains.



By the time the burrito was folded and served, I was fantasizing about the doener stand 100 meters up the road. Biting into the burrito didn't help. I'm going to draw on my vast English-major vocabulary here and just call it weird.



After Hours: Germany

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

In the time I've lived in and visited the States, my inordinately rapt attention to American fast-food trends has yielded the following valuable information: Americans like standing in line for burritos.

Over the past year or so, I've noticed a similar fast-casual phenomenon beginning to take hold in the area around Kaiserslautern, Germany. There's a place downtown called, simply, Burrito Mexican Grill. And now, on the disenchanting strip of American-style commerce that is the city's Merkurstrasse, comes another: Taco Kidd.

Before exploring the underwhelming particulars of Taco Kidd, let's just establish that the underlying concept is extremely sound. The diner steps to the counter and orders off a giant wall-based menu, where burritos, tacos, quesadillas and other assorted entrees exist in a realm of idealized potential lunch entrées.

Once uttered, the order begins to manifest itself in reality, first as a room-temperature tortilla, then a warm tortilla increasingly stuffed with the meats, cheeses, rice, beans and salsas of one's choosing. It is then assembled into its final form and served. In other words, it's like Subway, but with burritos.

Popularized by chains like Moe's and Chipotle in the States,

TACO KIDD

Location: Merkurstrasse 13, Kaiserslautern.

Directions: Merkurstrasse can be accessed through the traffic circle just outside of Rhine Ordnance Barracks near Vogelweh. Venture past Toys R Us, Subway, KFC and a handful of shoe stores until Taco Kidd appears on your right. Parking in the rear is rather tight.

Hours: 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.

Dress: Casual. Western-themed optional.

Costs: Nachos and tacos in the three-euro range, burritos

about six euros. The restaurant also serves burgers and chicken wings for about seven euros and chili and salads starting at about five euros. An item from Taco Kidd's small breakfast menu costs under four euros. The restaurant features a reasonable collection of beer, wine, liquor and soft drinks.

Information: Visit Taco Kidd's Facebook page for a full menu and other information. Call the restaurant at 0631 205 60013; email at tacokidd.kaiserslautern@gmail.com.

— Gregory Broome

this is an idea that deserves to be adopted and celebrated internationally. And in fact, it already is: one can procure a delicious doener kebab through a similar process at regular intervals of 100 meters across Europe.

So it's clear that the concept isn't the problem. What is lacking, in the example of Taco Kidd and similar establishments, is the execution.

In all of my trips to Chipotle and Moe's, I've never experienced the sensation of growing less excited as my burrito was assembled. It's always a feeling of gathering anticipation as ingredients are piled one

after the next. But watching my burrito assembled at Taco Kidd was deflating. When the burrito came off the grill, I was still fully invested. But then came the stringy beef, and the supposedly Mexican rice that looked exceedingly plain, and the leafy fronds of lettuce instead of the crispy iceberg chunks I prefer. By the time the burrito was folded and served, I was fantasizing about the doener stand 100 meters up the road.

Biting into the burrito didn't help. I'm going to draw on my vast English-major vocabulary here and just call it weird. Flavors I'd hoped to encounter were

missing, most of the flavors that were present were unwelcome, and the cumulative effect was disconcerting. Worse, after a couple of bites a small puddle of water of indeterminate origin formed on my plate. I finished the thing, but by the end I felt like one of those competitive eaters dipping a hot dog into a cup before showing it forcefully down.

The chips and *queso* I ordered on the side were plagued by similar ingredient-based issues. The chips were firm and all but devoid of salt, except for one apparent super-chip that had seemingly absorbed all the salt from the weaker chips around it.

Surely the *queso* was fine, I naively thought. But alas! The expected kick came in the form of a mild, curry-like flavor that had no place in the midst of a Mexican meal. I drank two bottles of Pepsi, and not because the dip was too spicy. I just needed to taste something else.

So where do we go from here? For now, I'm going to stay clear of these fledgling German burrito shops. I'll get my fix of Mexican food from home-cooked meals and, occasionally, Taco Bell. In a year I'll try again and hope that progress has been made. If not, it'll be time to officially add fast-casual burritos to the list of American pastimes that simply don't translate well to Germany.

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Twitter: @broomestripes

Snack cake packs grains and honey

By MELISSA D'ARABIAN
The Associated Press

With school back in session, I'm back in the business of baking up one of my kids' favorites—a simple snack cake inspired by the apple-honey torte my mother used to make. Because it's technically a quick bread, the whole thing takes just 10 minutes to assemble (mix wet and dry ingredients separately, then together) and about 30 minutes to bake. The hardest part of this recipe is getting the ingredients out of the cupboard.

If I'm feeling fancy, I'll make a bright citrusy glaze, which is a nice counterpoint to the warm notes of autumn spices and honey. It's a perfect not-too-sweet dessert and an ideal after-school snack with a tall glass of milk.

HONEY APPLESAUCE SNACK CAKE WITH ORANGE GLAZE

Ingredients:

1 cup white whole-wheat flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1 egg
1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
1/2 cup honey
2 tablespoons butter, melted (or vegetable oil)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon grated orange zest
3 tablespoons orange juice, divided
1/2 cup powdered sugar, sifted

Directions

Heat oven to 350 F. Coat a 9-inch round cake pan with baking spray. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, pumpkin pie spice and salt. In a separate bowl, whisk together the egg, applesauce, honey, butter, vanilla, orange zest and 1 tablespoon of the orange juice. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and whisk using a gentle folding motion until the batter is uniform.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake until the top is golden and the cake springs back under light pressure, 25 to 30 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes in the pan, then transfer to a rack to cool completely.

To make the glaze, in a small bowl whisk together the remaining 2 tablespoons of orange juice and the powdered sugar. Once the cake is cooled, drizzle with the glaze.

Makes 10 servings, 160 calories each.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

A master of Regency dance and etiquette, this gentleman dressed as the character Mr. Bennet from Jane Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice" also works at the Jane Austen Centre in the English city of Bath.

DAVID CAWLEY
Special to Stars and Stripes



Austen-tations

Elaborately costumed fans converge on Bath, England, to fete the queen of romantic fiction

BY DAVID CAWLEY
Special to Stars and Stripes

"Oh! Who can ever be tired of Bath?" Catherine Morland, "Northanger Abbey"

I'm wandering along the creaking, polished-oak floorboards of the Jane Austen Centre in Bath, England, lured by the promise of an eye-to-eye encounter with the famed author.

To young Austen, born in 1775 in a remote, pastoral backwater, Bath, some 60 miles away, seemed a city full of cosmopolitan wonderment, with glamorous parties, balls and shops.

Even before settling in the city, she'd written enthusiastically about the delights and possibilities Bath offered. This was to change. After five years living here, the realities of early 19th-century high-society convention soon began to jar. She found the ostentations disagreeable and oppressive, and that sharpened both her mind and pen. Biting satire began to fill her books: witty, scathing attacks on the upper crust. It's no surprise that in her final novel, "Persuasion," her most unlikable characters take the greatest pleasures in Bath. To her, they were ripe for parody, and she didn't hold back.

Whatever she thought of the people, there's no denying that Bath is a truly elegant place. The Jane Austen Centre on Gay Street is housed in one of hundreds of symmetrical town-houses built during the mid-18th century from the local, honey-colored stone.

Austen lived in a number of similar properties, but not this one. After her father's death, Austen's family did, however, take rooms in a similar house just up the street at number 25, which has since become a posh dental office.



A wax depiction of Jane Austen, based on drawings by a forensic artist, was unveiled in July at the Jane Austen Centre in Bath and remains there on display.

DAVID CAWLEY

On a recent visit to the center, I found costumed staff, assuming the names of Austen's characters, hovering about, clearly loving their subject. As I passed through I learned that the author was not only a groundbreaking writer but also made beer and wine.

The museum's latest acquisition is a waxwork replica of Austen. Guide "Georgiana Darcy" tells me that the 5-foot-7-inch tall figure was created from portraits and descriptions of the author as drawn by FBI forensic artist Melissa Dring. The figure was fashioned by royal sculptor Mark Richards.

"After 200 years, it's the closest resemblance we've had of Austen," said the guide playing a character from Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice." "I didn't think she would be that tall and always imagined her hair to be darker."

At the exit, "Mr. Bennet," the main character's father in

"Pride and Prejudice," dressed in full Regency costume, dutifully guards the door. He's a rather well-padded and ruddy-cheeked fellow who reveals a warm smile from between gray, feral sideburns. He's the man to go to for all things regarding the Regency period in Bath, especially when it comes to etiquette and dancing. He enthusiastically talks of his other role as a ballroom dancing master of ceremonies: "I teach the dances to beginners and explain the required etiquettes needed for any Regency ballroom event."

An emcee during Austen's time not only called the dances but also was responsible for making proper introductions to potential suitors.

"You have to remember, too, that during the early 1800s, we had the Napoleonic Wars, and eligible men were overseas and in short supply here," Mr. Bennet said. "It was vital that anyone in search of a suitable husband behaved correctly."

He's an especially busy man at the moment, with the 14th annual Jane Austen Festival running from Friday to Sept. 21.



Courtesy of the Jane Austen Festival

Fans gather in Bath, England, for the Jane Austen Festival. This year's edition starts Friday and runs through Sept. 21. The festivities include an attempt Saturday to set a new Guinness world record for the largest gathering of people dressed in Regency Costumes.

Thousands of enthusiasts have descended on Bath to attend dances, listen to Austen lectures and readings and take part in a promenade, hoping to break the Guinness world record for the largest gathering of people dressed in Regency costumes.

I head for a location that plays a big part not only in Austen's writings but also in Bath's entire existence. The Pump Room was the undisputed social go-to for any member of the Georgian fashionable elite at the time. In "Northanger Abbey," Austen makes regular mention of the place. "Every morning now brought its regular duties; shops were to be visited; some new part of the town to be looked at; and the Pump-Room to be attended, where they paraded up and down for an hour, looking at everybody and speaking to no one."

Opened the year of Austen's birth, this elegant, high-ceilinged ballroom now houses a restaur-

rant. As it was then, the place is bustling as afternoon tea is served amid the genteel tones of chamber music.

For an escape from this quintessential Englishness, I visited the Roman spa and museum housed directly beneath the Pump Room. The ancient bathing areas still hold the warm sulfurous water that has lured visitors for the past two millennia. The museum exhibits and Roman remains are mesmerizing.

Austen wasn't born or even buried in Bath, but her time in the city was to profoundly shape her life. Her finger-pointing, satirical writing aimed squarely at the upper classes still delights millions today. What would she have thought of all her fans packing the city's festival to celebrate her life in all their Regency finery?

David Cawley is a freelance writer who lives in England.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



DAVID CAWLEY/Special to Stars and Stripes

Behind and beneath the Regency Pump Room in Bath, England — a popular venue during Jane Austen's time — are the Roman Baths and museum with the abbey in the background.

KNOW & GO

- **The Jane Austen Festival** (janeaustenfestivalbath.co.uk) in Bath, England, runs Friday through Sept. 21. The town will be packed for the Grand Regency Costumed Promenade at 11 a.m. Saturday; allow extra travel time. The 2015 festival dates are Sept. 11 to Sept. 20.
- **The Jane Austen Centre** website is janeausten.co.uk; phone (+44) (0) 1225 443000.

- **Tourism board website** and free accommodation booking service: visitbath.co.uk; (+44) (0)844 8475257. This is also the ticket office and starting point for leisurely Jane Austen-themed walks through the city that take place on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m.
- **Getting there:** Bristol has the closest international airport and offers flights from Berlin

with Easyjet (easyjet.com), plus Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich with BMI Regional (bmiregional.com). There is regular, direct train service between London Paddington station and Bath. Website: firstgreatwestern.co.uk

— David Cawley

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Where bears abound Alaska's Katmai National Park draws nature lovers

By CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS
Los Angeles Times

In the Alaska of my mind, it is always summer. A bear stands hip-deep in glacial runoff, swatting salmon and swallowing them whole. Eagles wheel overhead. Moose meander in the bush. The theme from "Northern Exposure" echoes across the tundra.

The real Alaska falls short of this. It has four seasons, high prices, treacherous weather, nasty arguments over mineral extraction and a finite number of places where a human can safely peek over a bear's shoulder.

But those places do exist. Katmai National Park is one. When a rare overnight opening popped up, I jumped. Four months later, in mid-July, Los Angeles Times photographer Mark Boster and I headed to Katmai's Brooks Camp to see what bear-salmon reality looks like.

Stage 1 was a jet to Anchorage. Stage 2 was a 30-seat plane to King Salmon (population 374), gateway to Katmai. Stage 3 — because you can't reach Brooks Camp by road — was a 35-mile hop in a De Havilland Canada DHC-3 Otter floatplane, which gently settled on glassy Naknek Lake and glided to shore. We stepped straight from pontoon to plank to the pebbly beach.

We were 200 miles southwest of Anchorage, undistracted by cellphone reception or Wi-Fi. Even though we had soared across a near-infinity of volcanoes, lakes and glaciers, we were entering a small world unto

itself.

The beach is short, with half a dozen floatplanes tied up like horses outside a saloon. New arrivals are routed into a snug park visitor center for a ranger briefing and video on safety and the habits of the coastal brown bear, which is the same species as the grizzly but bigger, more tolerant of humans and, if the season is summer, ravenous for salmon.

Brooks Camp is basically a main lodge and cafeteria, 16 lodge cabins (which hold up to 60 guests) and a modest campground (surrounded by electrified fence) that holds 60 tent-dwellers. From the visitor center it's less than a mile up the trail to the Brooks River, which is really a brief stream between two lakes, barely 1½ miles long with a lively 5-foot waterfall near its midpoint.

In June and August, Brooks Camp is all about fly-fishing. But in July, when the salmon typically buck the current to spawn above Brooks Falls, bear-watchers and nature photographers show up from all over. In September, when fall color arrives, you see a mix of anglers and photographers.

Within an hour of reaching camp, I heard French, German, Italian, Japanese and Mandarin (and two Irish brogues). Within 90 minutes, I had spotted my first bear. It was a male, lazing in a water hole like a golden retriever off leash, perhaps 150 yards from the main lodge. The buffet workers and veteran guides just shrugged. Soon I understood why.

There are three viewing platforms within 1.2 miles of the lodge. The nearest, just across the Brooks River Bridge, is the Lower River Platform. Next comes the Riffles Platform, overlooking a wide, flat stretch of the river that's favored by mama bears and their cubs. And then, just a little farther, there's the prime spot, the Falls Platform, which holds 40 people at a time and is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

That first afternoon, I arrived there to find a ranger standing at the gate like a maitre d', waiting list in hand, headset on.

"Reynolds, party of two," I said.

"It's at least a 40-minute wait. Maybe an hour," he said. At which point the Alaska of my mind began to resemble a Houston's restaurant on a Saturday night.

When my name was called, I strolled into a scene that was one-third "Animal Planet," one-third presidential news conference and one-third "Waiting for Godot." The river and falls were gorgeous. The bears were fearsome and quirky. Every sudden move among them sparked a burst of shutter clicks on the platform. But for long minutes, the fish would lie low and the bears would stand like statues, waiting.

Why? The sockeye salmon had started spawning earlier than expected, and most had already made the journey up the falls. So the bears were seeing perhaps one leaping sockeye every few minutes instead of the 100 a



MARK BOSTER, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

A Coastal Brown Bear carries a sockeye salmon in shallow water on July 20 at Brooks Falls in the Katmai National Park and Preserve in Alaska. Each bear is likely to consume about 20 of the high-calorie salmon per day in order to add weight for their long hibernation.

minute they see during the peak days of summer. And they were still hungry.

We watched them wait, pounce, rise on two legs to look around or growl and swipe at one another. One youngster leaped at birds on the beach. Two more playfully swatted each other in the shallows of the lake for close to an hour. The old bears never did that. They would trap a 6-pound salmon beneath a meaty

claw, then drag it out of the water to gnaw on it elsewhere — sometimes right beneath our platform.

The bears' body language seemed so human, I thought. I completely understand the appeal of the Internet bear cams set up along the river and all the nicknames these bears have accrued. Romeo. Juliet. Otis. Lurch. Big Ears Blondie.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

"ESCAPE TO THE HEART OF TOKYO!"

September							October							November						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 32

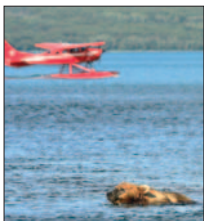
But then I would catch that unamused omnivore look in an adult male's eyes. His life depends on ingesting a year's worth of calories in six months.

Off the platforms, you're ordered to keep 50 yards from the nearest bear. (In Denali National Park — which registered its first bear-mauling fatality in 2012, when a grizzly attacked a 49-year-old hiker from San Diego — the minimum distance is 300 yards.)

But the bears didn't get that memo, and they roam everywhere — down the trail, up the beach, just outside the lodge bathroom door. About 30 rangers (including many seasonal hires and volunteers) circulate constantly, barking bear positions into walkie-talkies and often instructing visitors to hold still or back off as bears blithely pass 10 or 20 yards away. The delays are called bear jams.

"Brooks Camp is an ironic place," said Mike Fitz, a National Park Service visual information specialist. "You come here to see bears. But often you can't go where you want to go, because bears are in the way."

The enterprise hangs in a delicate balance; it's a great credit to the concessionaire and the rangers that Brooks Camp hasn't had a bear-related injury in many years, and never a fatality. But the wider its popularity spreads, the trickier safety becomes.



MARK BOSTER, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Seaplane pilots have to navigate around bears swimming near the shore of Naknek Lake when landing at Brooks Camp in the Katmai National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

Though the park service has dubbed its bear-safety video into German, French and Japanese, the rangers didn't have a Mandarin version (or a Mandarin-speaking ranger) during my visit. Meanwhile, Chinese visitors are on the upswing, and groups often arrive without much knowledge of English or experience with 1,000-pound predators.

One morning, an angry young ranger ran past me on the trail, chasing five Chinese men who were too close to a bear and deliberately getting closer.

"I'm going to give them a talking to," the ranger said.

Couple bends travel plans around endangered animals, environments

Out in the water at Brooks Falls in Alaska's Katmai National Park, the bears were doing their thing. Up on the viewing platform among the telephoto lenses, two off-duty executives from Chicago turned from their cameras to explain themselves.

"It's about seeing the animal in its natural habitat, doing what it does every day," Amy Marta said.

"Have you done the orangutans?" Ruey Tu asked me.

Marta, 44, and Tu, 53, have been a couple for 24 years. For almost as long, they have been choosing trips that showcase animals and fragile environments. Though they rarely take more than three weeks' vacation per year from their jobs, they've seen and photographed enough exotic beasts to fill an ample zoo.

Polar bears at Churchill, Canada. Mountain gorillas in Rwanda. Gray whales in Baja California's San Ignacio Lagoon and sea turtle hatchlings at Cabo San Lucas. Manta rays off the Big Island of Hawaii. Humpback whales off Maui. Orangutans and Komodo dragons in Indonesia. Stingrays off Grand Cayman in the Caribbean. Penguins in Antarctica. Koalas, kangaroos and platypus in Australia.

They have done African safaris (Tanzania, Botswana) and the Galapagos. Later this year, India for tigers.

Marta, raised in Wisconsin, grew up taking national park trips with her family every summer. Tu, whose parents left China in 1948, was born and raised in Michigan. His family spent nine months in Taiwan in 1967, which left him eager to see more of the world.



CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Frequent traveler Ruey Tu, left, and his partner Amy Marta from Chicago have traveled all over the world to see animals in their natural habitats.

They earn a good living, but another key to affording and making all these trips, they say, is careful planning, bargain-hunting, flexibility and patience. They have agreed to wait on most big cities and cultural destinations until after they have achieved their targets in the natural world.

"We have a travel philosophy," Tu said, "to try to go places that are rapidly changing and that are unlikely to be the same in 10 years."

Marta, a sales and marketing consultant, tracks their travel ambitions on a wish-list spreadsheet that charts animals, destinations and seasons. Pandas in China? Harp seals in Canada? Monarch butterflies in Mexico, chimpanzees in Uganda? All on the list.

In 10 or 20 or 30 years, "Big Ben will still be there," Tu said. But these beasts might not.

— Los Angeles Times

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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of Tokyo Game Show

CHECK IT OUT:
Tokyo Game Show

One of the biggest game shows globally, this event introduces games, software and cellular phone content at Makuhari Messe on Sept. 20 and 21. For more: tinyurl.com/p6nec2u.



Stars and Stripes

HEAR A BIG VOICE:
Carey concert

Mariah Carey will be in concert at 8 p.m. Oct. 8 at Olympic Park in Seoul, South Korea. For more: tinyurl.com/3e6rwhw.

AP

FALL ARRIVES: Autumnal
Equinox Day, Japan

Sept. 23 is the day to mark the beginning of fall, and a Japanese national holiday to pay respects to deceased ancestors. Japanese people visit temples and cemeteries and put flowers and offer incense for the repose of the deceased.

MCT

LATE BLOOM:
Cosmos Garden, Japan

This garden in Yokosuka, Kurihama Flower World, features one million cosmos flowers in bloom Sept. 20 to Nov. 3. At 2 p.m. Oct. 26 and Nov. 3, visitors can pick the flowers.

MORE EVENTS

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Please verify events before attending.

Japan

GRAND SUMO SEPTEMBER TOURNAMENT (Tokyo): Sept. 14-28; Ryogoku Kokugikan, Ryogoku Station, JR Sobu Line; 2,200-3,800-5,100-8,500 yen; sumo.or.jp.

RESPECT-FOR-THE-AGED DAY: Sept. 15; on this Japanese national holiday called Keiro no hi, Japanese people show respect to longtime contributors to society and celebrate their longevity and pray for their health. Japan has the longest life expectancy of any country in the world.

PACIFIC SHOWCASE OF U.S. AIR FORCE BAND OF THE PACIFIC CONCERT (Saitama prefecture): Sept. 16, 12:10-12:50 p.m.; at Saitama Super Arena, five-minute walk from Kaihin Makuhari Station on JR Keiyo-Line; free; 048-460-1711 ext 2445.

FUJIYOSHIDA HORSEBACK ARCHERY (Yamanashi prefecture): Sept. 19; Fujiyoshida's yabusame — a type of mounted archery — is different from other events because it includes local residents praying for no disputes or fires in the coming year after the eight yabusame performances, which start 1 p.m. Sept. 19 at Shimo Yoshida Oomuro Sengen Shrine, two-minute walk from Shimo Yoshida Station on Fuji Kyuko Line.

UFC FIGHT NIGHT JAPAN 2014 (Saitama prefecture): Sept. 20, 2:30 p.m.; Mark Hunt vs. Roy Nelson and more at Saitama Super Arena, five-minute walk from JR Kannai Station on Keihin Tohoku Line; 9,800-24,000-100,000 yen.

SPECTERS, GHOSTS AND SORCERERS IN UKIYO-E (Tokyo): Through Sept. 25, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., closed Mon., except Sept. 15; see seasonal ukiyo-e on display; Ukiyo-e Ota Memorial Museum of Art, five-minute walk from JR Harajuku Station; 900 yen adults, 600 yen senior high school and college students, kids free; ukiyo-otamuse.jp.

Okinawa

WORLDWIDE EISA CONTEST 2014: Sept. 13-15; at National Theatre Okinawa, 20-minute taxi ride from Naha Airport; 1,500 yen; eiso-okinawa.com.

MINAMI DAITO VILLAGE HONEN FESTIVAL: Sept. 22 and 23; celebrate good health and a good harvest in Minami Daito village, where residents hold Shinto rites such as pulling a float, costume parade, sumo and more at Daito Shrine Sonnin-no Mori Park, one-hour flight from Naha Airport; 098-022-2001.

South Korea

SEOUL DRUM FESTIVAL: Sept. 12 and 13; professional and amateur percussionists from around the world gather at Gyeonghuigung Palace and Seoul Museum of History area; Gwanghwamun Station (Seoul Subway Line 5), Exit 7; seouldrum.go.kr.

ICHEON CERAMIC FESTIVAL (Gyeonggi-do): Through Sept. 21; Icheon has 1,000 years of history in ceramic arts including Korea's finest ceramics such as Cheongja, Baekja and Buncheongsagi, and this event includes of ceramics excavation, hands-on programs and more; ceramic.or.kr.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Me against a mountain

I tackled the highest peak in western Japan hoping to discover a new self along the way

By TAKASHI OKI

The Yomiuri Shimbun

Western Japan's Mt. Ishizuchi is a sacred mountain where Kobo-Daishi (A.D. 774-835), the high-ranking priest who established the Shikoku pilgrimage, trained. Today, many ascetics, conspicuous in white robes, come together to reach its 6,500-foot summit in early July, when rituals are held during a ceremonial opening of the year's climbing season.

The mountain, the tallest in western Japan, is particularly known for its climbing route with several sets of heavy metal chains dangling down a rocky cliff path leading up to the summit. In "Eien no Ko," a novel by Arata Tendo, children seeking spiritual salvation struggle to climb the mountain by gripping the chains for support.

I decided to reach the summit myself, hoping to find a different self there.

On July 17, I visited Saijo, Ehime Prefecture, at the foot of the mountain. To build up stamina for climbing the next day, I ate a popular pasta dish called Teppan Napolitan, a local specialty that is served on a hot iron plate.

At 8 a.m. the next morning, I took the day's first ropeway service to Ishizuchi Shrine's Chugu Jijusha, one of the shrine's worship facilities, located 4,750 feet above sea level. Unfortunately, clouds hid the summit from view.

I began climbing from there, my mind on the weather. After climbing for about 90 minutes through a beech forest, I reached the Yodakashi-toge mountain pass about halfway up the mountain. The forest ended here, and my field of vision suddenly expanded.

"You can see the summit," nature observation guide Yoshiyasu Imagawa, 38, said excitedly. I had asked him to climb with me.

Seeing such a dignified mountain, I felt refreshed and invigorated, ready to climb to the summit.

Climbing a little farther, we reached Ichi no Kusari, and the first set of chains running down the side of a cliff came into view. The thick chains run 108 ft. down the cliff. Each link in the chain consists of a short iron rod with a ring a little larger than four inches in diameter at each end.

Gripping the rings one by one while groping around for footholds, I climbed up the cliff little by little.

It was tough for my arms to sup-

port the weight of my backpack and my own body, which has a little too much extra fat.

During the climb, I looked down and was seized by fear. It felt like I was dangling from the cliff. If I lost my grip and my feet slipped, I would fall straight down.

The thought made me so frightened that I held fast to the chains with both arms. It is said that even grade school children can make the climb, but it felt almost impossible for me. I managed to finish, but when I reached the top of the cliff, I felt dazed. I might have pushed myself too hard.

After a while, we reached Ni no Kusari, the second set of chains. These run as long as 213 feet.

"The part we can't see down here is difficult to climb," Imagawa said.

I gave up on climbing this part. Fortunately, however, there is a detour route for those like me.

San no Kusari, the final set of chains, was under repair. I was relieved to hear it and continued going on the detour route.

"Ryu-ryu-ryui, ryu-ryu-ryui," cried a bird in the distance.

"It's the *meboso nushikui*," Imagawa said, using the Japanese name for the arctic warbler. "I hope we can see it."

About two hours and 45 minutes after climbing from Jijusha, we finally reached the summit. Although it was not clear and sunny, I could see a foggy range of mountains in the distance.

"I did it!" I found myself crying out.

At the shrine's Okunomiyama Chojosha worship facility in the summit area, I saw Atsuki Yamashita, 60, and his wife Riemi, 59, being given an incantation. Yamashita told me that he had turned

60 that day.

"I wanted to start a new life at Ishizuchi," he said.

However, I had farther to go in seeking my new self — Tengudake peak, which is the highest point of Mt. Ishizuchi, which can be seen just across the summit area. It projected sharply through the fog like afang.

The route from the summit area to Tengudake was rocky, but I had no alternative other than to just keep going. I slithered forward little by little on my stomach on the rocky path. I knew it was pathetic for me to be so full of fear while climbing, but I couldn't help it.

After a while, however, I finally reached Tengudake. When I stood at the highest point of western Japan's tallest mountain, my surroundings became enshrouded in mist, enveloping me in what felt like a divine cloud.

I realized I can't change myself so easily, but I found myself fully enjoying a sense of accomplishment all the same.



Photos by The Yomiuri Shimbun

Chains assist people climbing the steep face of imposing Mt. Ishizuchi, whose name means "stone hammer."

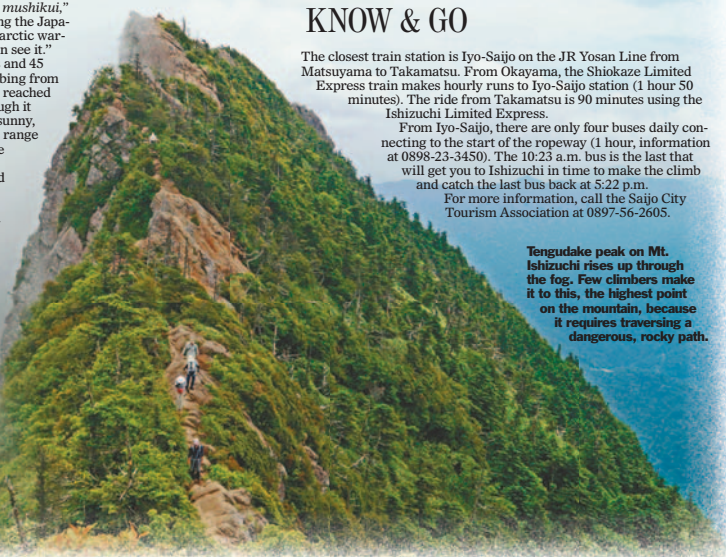
KNOW & GO

The closest train station is Iyo-Saijo on the JR Yosan Line from Matsuyama to Takamatsu. From Okayama, the Shiohaze Limited Express train makes hourly runs to Iyo-Saijo station (1 hour 50 minutes). The ride from Takamatsu is 90 minutes using the Ishizuchi Limited Express.

From Iyo-Saijo, there are only four buses daily connecting to the start of the ropeway (1 hour, information at 0898-23-3450). The 10:23 a.m. bus is the last that will get you to Ishizuchi in time to make the climb and catch the last bus back at 5:22 p.m.

For more information, call the Saijo City Tourism Association at 0897-56-2605.

Tengudake peak on Mt. Ishizuchi rises up through the fog. Few climbers make it to this, the highest point on the mountain, because it requires traversing a dangerous, rocky path.



WEEKEND: MUSIC

PLEASANT SURPRISE?



Courtesy of Interscope Records

U2 gives you more than you paid for — along with an ambush you didn't request

By RANDALL ROBERTS
Los Angeles Times

One danger of artistic longevity is repetition. Then there's the problem of self-parody. In the case of U2, a band with 13 documented and doted-upon studio albums across 34 years, how does an artist deliver surprise instead of lapsing into well-worn tropes, even if they're expertly imagined and executed?

One effective way to shock in 2014 is by dropping anticipated new work with no advance notice, for free, while the world is tuned to an Apple product launch. That's how U2 just did it, anyway.

The long-gestating new one from Bono, The Edge, Larry Mullen Jr. and Adam Clayton is called "Songs of Innocence," and during Tuesday's iPhone and Apple Watch media event the band simultaneously acknowledged the new record's existence and, with the click

of a button somewhere in Cupertino, Calif., dropped it for free into 500 million iTunes accounts.

Like a magician lifting a kerchief to reveal a dove, all of a sudden there it was, amid our iTunes files: U2, "Songs of Innocence." Named for the first of a two-volume William Blake poetry cycle, the record is focused on nostalgia while being produced by a consortium of contemporary hit-makers — including Paul Epworth, Flood and Ryan Tedder — and overseen by the producer Danger Mouse.

Though "Innocence" doesn't cost anything and you already have it, should you exert the energy to move your finger to

iTunes and poke a few virtual buttons?

Sure, but don't expect a record as breathtaking as U2 at its best. Rather, this is average-grade stuff with a couple essential songs.

"Songs of Innocence" is an autobiographical record about music as a salve, as an engine, and the ways in which it ferried Bono and band on a fantastic journey to wealth, fame, influence ... and California.

Sonically, though, "Songs of Innocence" is a reactionary album defined by the tones of today. Thankfully, there aren't any dubstep bass-drops, but it shouldn't come as a comfort to anyone that the first few seconds of the record sound like a Lumineers ooh-ay-ooh song. Or that musically it's about as dangerous as a Coldplay record, albeit with grittier distortion pedals; or that most of Adam Clayton's trademark bass lines sound like rote imitations of better lines elsewhere in the band's repertoire.

The menace lies elsewhere, and the band is at its best when in expansion mode. "Raised by Wolves" recalls the 1970s trauma that overwhelmed U2's homeland one Friday at dusk, when simultaneous IRA bombings in Dublin and Monaghan killed 33 people.

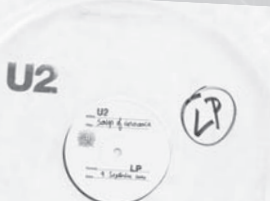
"Volcano" surprises with a dance-

rock track that sounds inspired by LCD Soundsystem and the DFA posse. It's the best song on the album, capturing the bottled-up tension of a soul in need of passion.

This all-consuming passion drives "Innocence," and makes for an at-times lyrically fascinating work, one that honors the power of organized sound: "Music so I can exaggerate my pain, and give it a name," sings Bono on "The Miracle (of Joey Ramone)." Though I'm pretty sure that Joey wouldn't like this song — too complicated, too many big words — it nonetheless captures the spirit.

It's tempting to conclude with a cheap shot about the world's biggest band leveraging itself into your life without permission, something about recipients "getting what they pay for." It is disconcerting, and anyone bred on the rebellion of punk rock is right to be wary.

What would a teenage Bono think if Yes or Jethro Tull secretly invaded every home in Dublin and dropped their new record on the turntable? I'd wager he'd have a problem with it — and rightly so. And even if such invasion has little to do with the music, it's difficult to have a pleasant conversation with a friend when you discover she's snuck into your living room without an invite.



WEEKEND: MUSIC

There are the Robert Plant fans firmly in the why-doesn't-he-just-tour-with-Led-Zeppelein camp. Then there are those who admire the former rock god's post-Zep reign as a restless experimenter and global troubadour with little use for nostalgia.

The latter group will find much to appreciate on the stirring, often melancholic and thoroughly modern "lullaby and... The Ceaseless Roar." It's the first studio album with his versatile recent touring outfit, the Sensational Space Shifters. With players from various continents and musical traditions, the band follows effortlessly as Plant leads the charge over the common ground connecting American country and blues, English folk, African rhythm, riff-heavy rock

and even electronica.

The opener, "Little Maggie," is a reinvention of a traditional Appalachian number popularized in the 1940s by



Robert Plant

"lullaby and... The Ceaseless Roar" (Nonesuch)

the bluegrass duo the Stanley Brothers. This time, that twang isn't a banjo — it's a one-stringed Gambian instrument called the ritti. The song ends with a surprising but smooth transition to a trip-hop-style electro beat.

The heaviest track, "Turn It Up," features Tom Waits-style junkyard percussion and some distorted electric guitar workouts. "House of Love" — a warm balled with a slow, booming rhythm — surveys "the damage done" following a shattered relationship.

Good luck getting that tune's bittersweet melody out of your head. The album throbs with ambition and subtlety and rewards replays. Who needs nostalgia?

— Christopher Weber
The Associated Press

Robert Plant crosses continents on new album

'lullaby and... The Ceaseless Roar' blends African rhythm, English folk, American country

British musician Robert Plant's new album, "lullaby and... The Ceaseless Roar," was released in the U.S. on Tuesday. The album features 11 new recordings, nine of which are original songs written by Plant with his band, the Sensational Space Shifters.

JOEL RYAN, INVISION/AP

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

'Diablo' series heats up with new missions

'Reaper of Souls' for consoles offers fun, but not many surprises

By TIM BOWERS

Special to Stars and Stripes

Death is no longer to be feared now that console gamers can play the new expansion for "Diablo III."

Activision Blizzard's "Diablo III: Reaper of Souls" allows gamers to explore a fascinating fifth act in the demon-hunting adventure. It also offers a whole new

Nephalem hero known as the Crusader: a holy fighter of the Zakarum faith.

The new act thrusts the player into an environment that is filled with chaos and destruction caused by a fiendish enemy. It's soon revealed that the



Angel of Death, Malthael, has captured the powerful Black Soulstone and intends to use it against mankind.

Fans of the series have been able to play the expansion missions on PC for several months, but they can now also play on Xbox 360, Xbox One, PlayStation 3 and the PS4. Those who played the original "Diablo III" on consoles don't have to start from scratch in the first act. "Reaper of Souls" allows players to import existing champions from previous console (Xbox 360 to Xbox One or PS3 to PS4). However, it does not allow PC champions to be imported into the console environment.

As with the PC version, players can join up to three friends and complete all five of the acts of "Diablo III." Four-player co-op is available both online and on the same screen — a bonus that's unavailable to PC



Electronic Arts

Battle with a host of deadly new enemies in "Diablo III: Reaper of Souls."

gamers. The same-screen action is very fun.

In addition to the fifth act, new activities include completing online bounties and exploring rifts.

Online bounties are a fun and exciting way to break up the monotony of crawling through the story line and hearing the same script over and over again. Since "Diablo" is designed to be played repeatedly and at ever-increasing difficulty levels, any change in the routine is welcome.

The bounties begin when a player travels to a waypoint with an exclamation mark, which indicates that there is a short mission to complete. This mission could be anything from killing a specific elite enemy to cleansing a corrupted shrine. After completing the short mission, experience and gold are awarded to the champion. This also moves the player one step closer to receiving a small item bundle that is awarded by the character Tyrael. Tyrael presents this bundle once players

have completed all five of the missions in a certain act section.

During these missions, players will also receive items known as rift crystals and blood shards.

Rift crystals allow players to go into something known as a Nephalem Rift, which is a series of dungeons that require the champions of Sanctuary to butcher a certain number of hell spawn before a Rift Guardian (the dungeon boss) appears. After the guardian is vanquished, loot will pour out of the boss and will usually include a larger number of blood shards, and possibly a few legendary items.

Blood shards allow gamers to visit a woman named Kadala to purchase gear. The items could be really helpful, like a cool legendary weapon or an interesting set of armor, or it could be just another low-level blue item that's good for nothing more than scrap.

The PC and console versions are not identical, though. Several differences

Overall grade: **B**

make the console version a little more challenging. One example that really sticks out is that some of the characters' abilities are not as effective in the console version. For example, the Crusader class has an ability called "Falling Sword," which launches the character into the air and toward a targeted area. In the PC edition, players are able to point anywhere on the screen and jump there — it could be onto an enemy, up a cliff or simply out of the way of a tough enemy. In the console version, however, players are only able to jump to places that have a targetable enemy. That means the player has to be very careful and very skilled when targeting a hostile minion. This is not a game-breaking factor, but it does mean that gamers might have to rethink certain skill loadouts that they have used on the PC or have seen online.

The mature-rated "Diablo III: Reaper of Souls" is an extremely fun game for the console, but it still deserves only a B. The PC version has a certain appeal that just is not matched in the console edition. For example, players are slightly more skilled on the PC version, making the Rifts easier and more entertaining.

Also, the game is basically just an expansion of "Diablo III," so there's nothing extremely surprising. The new missions, character and game modes make it more enjoyable, but these additions are not really big enough to make this an A game.

With this being said, the game remains very fun and enjoyable. And if you have friends to play with, this is a must-buy.

Bottom line: B "Diablo III: Reaper of Souls" offers a lot of fun, but not a lot that's truly new to "Diablo" fans.

Platforms: Xbox 360, Xbox One, PlayStation 3, PS4, PC

Online: us.battle.net

'Sims 4' aspires to greatness and fails

By DERRIK J. LANG

The Associated Press

I knew I'd have issues with "The Sims 4" the moment I realized it wasn't possible to use a dishwasher for the fabulous couple I'd created to live their virtual little lives to the fullest in Oasis Springs, one of the game's two idyllic neighborhoods. The cost wasn't a concern. I was flush with Simoleons — the game's goofy currency — from selling their novels and masterpieces in the mall.

It's that the oh-so-convenient appliance was among dozens of features the developers had left out of the latest edition of Electronic Arts' virtual dollhouse franchise. Despite crafting Oasis Springs' next Jackie Collins and Damien Hirst, my couple has resigned to scrubbing their dishes in a sink. It's at that point I knew

"Sims 4" had let me — and Alma and Jimbo — down.

The problem with "The Sims 4" is that after nearly 15 years,



"Sims" fans are keenly aware of EA's business model of later releases of a dozen expansion packs. It's been a successful formula for the quirky life-simulator

series, one that now feels cruelly antiquated in the era of downloadable instant gratification. Despite that monumental deficiency, this "Sims" is remarkably more intuitive at the start. The developers at Maxis have made it easier than ever to get a household up and running by introducing streamlined tools to craft

dysfunctional virtual cartoons, as well as build their homes. The controls are totally fluid, whether you want to stretch a Sim's waistline or living room.

Unlike their predecessors, this breed of smarter, more emotional Sims can multitask and strive for various aspirations, ranging from finding a soul mate to becoming a best-selling author. When big aspirations are achieved or more simple whims are fulfilled, Sims are now granted points for much-needed rewards, like the ability to skip meals or get promoted more quickly at work.

It would be awesome — if it all flawlessly worked. In my review copy of "Sims 4," I ran into many unforgivable glitches, such as Sim babies resembling Freddy Krueger and Sims awkwardly swapping chairs while gathered around a table. In one instance,



ELECTRONIC ARTS, MAXIS/EP

Create and control a new generation of Sims with big personalities, new emotions and distinct appearances in "The Sims 4."

a bizarre Rip Van Winkle goof caused all of my neighbors to age faster when I wasn't controlling them. They later died.

That last bug was enough to drive me to scream Simlish — the game's goofy language — at my laptop. With such snags and so many features introduced

in the previous three entries left out this time, there's an unshakable feeling while playing "The Sims 4" that even though the Sims have evolved, something still isn't quite right about them, and it ain't just their dishpan hands.

Online: thesims.com

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT



MARVEL/Disney/AP

Georges St-Pierre, left, and Chris Evans star in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," now on DVD.

NEW ON DVD

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier": Chris Evans returns to the role of all-American hero Captain America. His efforts to adjust to the modern world are disrupted when S.H.I.E.L.D.—the organization that leads the defense of the planet from super threats—comes under attack. The more that Captain America digs into the assault, the more he begins to question what is right and what is wrong. It's easy to overlook the acting in big action movies. But from Evans to Robert Redford, who plays a man of power with a hidden agenda, the cast treats the story like a serious drama and sells the story. Brothers Anthony and Joe Russo had racked up a lot of directing credits before taking on "Captain America: The Winter Soldier"—mostly with TV comedies. It's a monumental leap from milking a few laughs out of a script to a big-budget superhero movie, but the brothers make it with ease.

"Words and Pictures": An English teacher enters into a battle with an art instructor over which is more important—words or pictures. The film resonates with a clever and endearing energy that harks back to the days when Doris Day and Rock Hudson dominated the box office. In a film era saturated with big special effects or teenage lust, this movie relies on the chemistry of its stars, Clive Owen and Juliette Binoche, to hold the attention of an audience. There are times when their banter comes across as a little too scripted, but mostly it's a welcome treat to watch two intelligent people deal with all the mishaps life has to offer.

Also new on DVD:
"Brick Mansions": Detroit detective looks into a dangerous neighborhood. Paul Walker stars.

"Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.: The Complete First Season"

"Doctor Who: Deep Breath": The 12th Doctor's era begins with Peter Capaldi as the time traveler.

"Louder Than Words": Couple try to put their lives together after the death of their daughter.

"Young Frankenstein 40th Anniversary": Mel Brooks comedy starring Gene Wilder.

"Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (50th Anniversary Edition)": Lesley Ann Warren, Ginger Rogers and Stuart Damon star in the 1965 TV special.

"Homeland: Season Three"

"Dynasty: The Final Season—Volumes One and Two"

"Blue Bloods—The Fourth Season"

"Supernatural: The Complete Ninth Season"

"Vampire Diaries: The Complete Fifth Season"

"The World Wars": Jeremy Renner narrates.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

Host, author & more

Steve Harvey explains how to play the game of success

By EMILY YAHR/The Washington Post

Steve Harvey? Yeah, he's having a pretty good year. His daytime talk show has thrived in an era in which similar ventures crash and burn. He won two Daytime Emmy awards, one for his talk show and another as Outstanding Game Show Host for the syndicated "Family Feud," a franchise he's largely credited with saving. "Think Like a Man Too," the second movie in a franchise based on his best-selling relationship advice book, was a hit at the box office. He's got a radio program, "The Steve

Harvey Morning Show." Plus, there's another book coming out this fall, "Act Like a Success, Think Like a Success," which he calls a "game-changer."

He's matter-of-fact about his impressive list of accomplishments, and why shouldn't he be? Women follow his candid dating advice so closely that they frequently approach him on the street and ask, "Steve, can you find me a man?"

We got him on the phone a few weeks ago shortly after he landed in Chicago and asked him about what's left to conquer in the entertainment world; what he's learned from the cutthroat daytime talk show world; and if he really can find his fans a man.

So many daytime talk shows struggle and get canceled almost immediately. What sets yours apart?

I think the authenticity resonates with people for the most part, because I have opinions and I'm not afraid to say them and I don't care if it's politically correct or not. My thoughts on child-rearing, on dating, on relationships, on your boss, on your attitude about money, whatever it is. I'm not afraid to say it.

I think also, having a male perspective in daytime TV that's a champion for women like I am, that helps. When a woman hears advice directly from a man, I think it resonates for them a little better than when they hear it from their girlfriends. They trust me and know I'm not going to lie to them.

The daytime talk show audience is mainly geared toward women, so what's the most common thing you hear from women about why they like your show?

The honesty resonates with them—a lot of times I hear that from women. They're interested in my take on a lot of different things. Because they know I'm going to be very honest, and they know that I speak from a position of realness, that I don't give them canned answers. I don't give them

the answer that my publicist told me I should say, or my marketing guy told me I should say. I give it to them straight. I think that they enjoy smiling during the middle of the day.

When people see you on the street, do they corner you and try to ask for advice?

The majority of things I get from women is, "Steve, can you find me a man?" That's my number one request. I say, "Well, you know, I can help you out, but I don't know if I can find him. He's going to find you."

You're credited with saving "Family Feud" from cancellation in 2010. How do you inject your own personality into that show while still keeping the game running smoothly? Can you do it in your sleep at this point, or is it challenging?

It's not a challenge at all; I'm doing the thing I was born to do. So I think it was

really, really important for me to interject more humor into the show. Every answer a person gives is not going to be on the board—I don't care how hard the family is clapping, saying, "Good answer, good answer." No, it's not! No, no, no. That's not a good answer. And why you're thinking this is a good answer, I don't know, but let's talk about that for a minute. That's never been done on a game show, where the host questions the person's response. And I brought that to a game show business and I turned that into a really, really fun time. I'm not mean to any of the contestants. I'm only repeating back what you said, so if you said it, you can't get mad at me for repeating it over and over and over.

"Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man" turned into quite the phenomenon—when you were writing it, did you anticipate it being a game show?

(Laughs.) I wish I could say that I did—that was the plan, but nah. (The publisher) told me that a huge library book is 250,000 copies. I told them I would sell 750,000 books. They laughed. I heard them, they were saying, "Yeah, that's really nice, Steve, yeah, sure. If we sell 100,000 copies we're going to be very happy. 200,000 copies and we're bananas."

Well what is it now? At 3.8 million copies, a movie, two movies? Come on. I'd love to say I thought of that, but I didn't; that was a gift from God.

And this new book will take the same approach, just not about relationships?

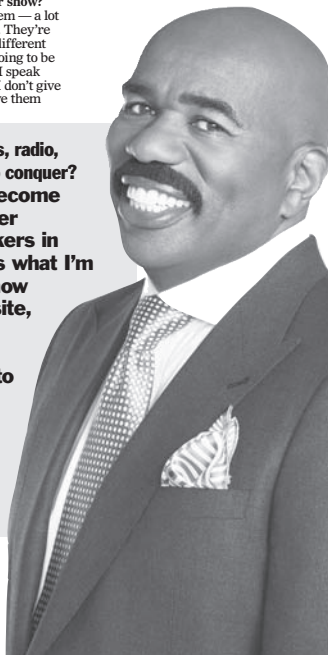
This new book, let me tell you something: This book right here, it's gonna be a game-changer. This book right here will transform so many lives because I'm talking to where the average person is.

And you know how I know that?
Because I've been there. See, I've fallen and thought I couldn't get back up. I've been written off and told I wasn't going to ever be nothing. I jumped and took a chance, a leap of faith. I've been homeless. I've been dead broke and I've been well off. I've had the whole gamut. ... It's not like I'm writing a book and I've never had a day of suffering in my life, or I'm writing a book and I come from a family with money. It's none of that. I've come from the bottom and I've worked my way up, pretty high up, on the pyramid.

Q: So, TV show, movies, radio, books. Any area left to conquer?
A: My goal is to become (one of the) premier motivational speakers in the country. That's what I'm working on right now with my new website, actlikeasuccess.com. I've hired a bunch of experts to help teach a lot of different areas of this thing called success. I think that's my next big deal.

Steve Harvey juggles the titles of TV and radio host, movie star and author.

HEIDI GUTMAN, NBC
The Washington Post



WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Netting new followers

Pickleball the latest racket in court sports

By COLLEEN SCHRAPPEN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

There's a friendly but rigorous doubles match being played on the tennis courts at a local recreation complex.

The neon yellow ball sails back and forth over the net.

But it is not a tennis ball. It is plastic and pocked with holes, like a shrunken Wiffle ball.

And the foursome is not playing with rackets. They are hitting the balls with paddles, ones that are a little bigger than those used for pingpong.

They are not playing tennis or pingpong. Or racquetball or badminton, for that matter.

They are playing pickleball. More accurately, they are learning how to play pickleball, a game that takes elements of multiple racket sports and spins them into its own quirky conventions.

On a recent summer evening, class instructor Jay Hubert has walked the group through some strategies, including the lob, a shot often used in tennis.

The hit should loop deep into the opponent's court. "so you gain time to get your position back," says Hubert, 29.

Gloria Garidel, 66, is familiar with the lob. She used to play tennis, and that background is helping her get the hang of this fused sport.

"You have to put a little more 'oomph' into it than with a tennis ball," she says.

Because of its perforations, the pickleball has more float, slowing the rally and buying players time to get into position. A pickleball travels at about a third of the speed of a tennis ball.

The ball's lightness means it's harder to smash, so brute strength does not factor into pickleball as much as in other court sports. And it introduces an element of randomness — sometimes the wind grabs the ball, sometimes it doesn't bounce true.

"People with unequal abilities can play each other," says Steve Strathearn, 54. "There are longer volleys."

Strathearn's children had played the game in middle school phys ed, so he was familiar with it when he saw the pickleball class offered through St. Louis Community College's continuing education program.

On this night, Strathearn has challenged Hubert in a game of singles. Singles and doubles matches are played with the same boundaries, about the size of a badminton court.

With less ground to cover than in tennis — and fewer sharp stops and starts — the game is more welcoming to folks who might have knee or joint problems but still want a cardiovascular workout.

Strathearn manages to mostly keep pace with the 2½-decades-younger instructor, despite a bum ankle. "I used to play racquetball," Strathearn says, "but this is easier on the joints."

Pickleball is particularly popular in Florida and Arizona, attracting retirees who have hung up their other rackets.

Dan Marlowe and his wife, Christine, both 68, decided to try to get a grasp on the game before spending their first winter in Florida. They bought their own paddles and came early to practice before class.

They are partners in a doubles match, and they are losing — but not by much. Hubert reminds them to switch positions after a point is scored, for the next serve.

"We like it where we are," Dan Marlowe jokes.

Serving is another way pickleball equalizes the playing level. The ball is served underhand, and it must bounce in the opponents' court before being returned. It has to bounce again before the serving team hits it back.



Gloria Garidel hits the ball during a pickleball class at Kennedy Recreation Complex in St. Louis in July. The racket sport is popular among all ages.

After that, the ball can be returned without a bounce — a volley — or played off the bounce, with a ground stroke.

"The serving rules are the hardest part of the game," Hubert says.

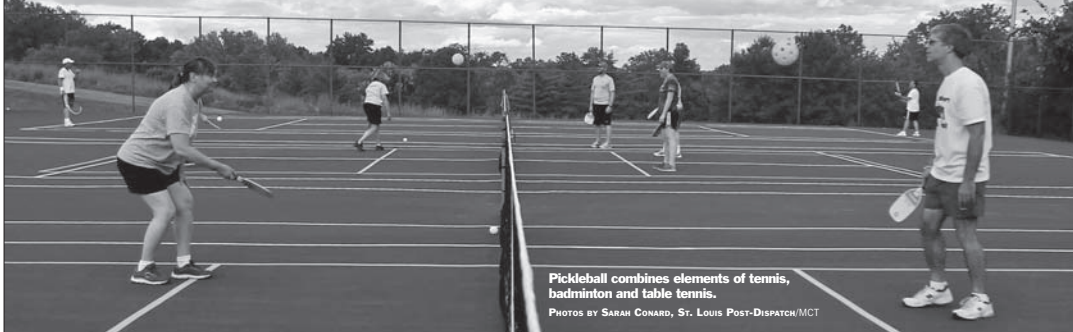
Another pickleball idiosyncrasy is the nonvolley line that runs parallel to the net on each side of the court. The zone between the net and the nonvolley line is called the kitchen. Players in that zone have to let the ball bounce before returning it, preventing close-to-the-net slams.

The location of the hit is much more important than its power.

"The key, most of the time, is to hit the ball low over the net," Hubert reminds the group as they grab drinks at the end of the hourlong session.

A man who is walking to his car after playing tennis nearby stops near the slightly sweaty, slightly winded group.

"Pickleball, right?" he asks. "Come play in the fall session," Hubert tells him. "It's a great workout."



Pickleball combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis.

PHOTOS BY SARAH CONARD, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT

Keep tabs on your fitness progress with these trackers

By DANIELLE BRAFF
Chicago Tribune

The latest fitness watches, bands and trackers will remind you to stick with your fitness goals — they'll track your progress and they'll sync the info with your phone. There are basic heart rate monitor and calorie counter options, too. The only thing they won't do: Work out for you.

Garmin Vivofit

With a battery life of at least one year, you won't have to take off this water-resistant watch for quite some time. It will monitor your steps, heart rate (an external monitor is required for this), calories and sleep — as well as tell the time. Vivofit automatically learns and personalizes your daily goals, tracks progress and reminds you when you should be moving by displaying a red move bar on the watch when

you've been inactive for an hour: \$129.99, buy.garmin.com

Blue SC Speed and Cadence Sensor

Cyclists can wirelessly pair this odometer with any cycling app (or use the free Wahoo Fitness Odometer app), including

Cyclemeter or Strava Cycling, to track cycling data like speed and cadence numbers. This lifetime bike mileage by week, month and year. It connects via Bluetooth to iPhones and iPads. \$59.99, wahoofitness.com



Timex Personal Trainer

Less expensive than most of the higher-end fitness watches on the market, this watch simply monitors your heart rate while still helping you maintain your fitness goals. It is easy to use, has a large display and counts calories. It also beeps when you run outside of your heart zone (it'll beep if your heart beats too quickly or too slowly). \$70, timex.com

Lifeband Touch Activity Tracker

This smart activity tracker is compatible with many heart rate monitors and smartphones — and it can transmit data



to third-party apps such as MyFitnessPal, MapMyFitness and RunKeeper. It can display time, biometrics, incoming calls and music controls, and it also measures your distance, speed, number of steps, calories consumed and projected pace. All the info is visible with a swipe of your finger. The watch has a motion-sensing algorithm that turns on the display when you rotate your wrist. \$149.99, bestbuy.com

Polar FT60

This watch is basically a personal trainer attached to your arm. It offers personalized training programs, and it rewards you when you complete them. It also displays your calorie count and fat-burning percentage — and it'll store 100 training files. It pushes you to work out harder by telling you how long you've been in different fitness zones by tracking your heart rate. If you don't slack at the gym. \$179.95, polar.com

WEEKEND: FAMILY



KEVIN R. WEXLER, THE RECORD/MCT

Terry Anzano of Ridgewood, N.J., center, recently sent two of her children, Rachel and Matthew, off to college. Parents' concerns for their child's safety while they're away at college were heightened following the release of a White House report earlier this year that found that one in five women is sexually assaulted on campus.

A fight for student safety

Concern grows over sexual assault on campus

By HANNAN ADELY
The Record

Terry Anzano, mother of two college-aged students, has heard the reports about the danger of sexual violence on campus. She worries about the risks inherent in a culture of binge drinking and promiscuity.

"Our heads are not in the sand," said Anzano, who lives in Ridgewood, N.J. "We know there's drinking and things that go on. You pray for them and support them and keep lines of communication open."

Parents have long been concerned about their children's safety as they leave for college, but that anxiety has deepened recently with the release last spring of a White House report that concluded one in every five women is sexually assaulted on campus.

"Campus safety should absolutely be part of the conversation," said Abigail Boyer, assistant executive director of programs at the Clery Center for Campus Security, based in Wayne, Pa. "It's important for parents to discuss how they can intervene and all the resources that are available to them or for a friend if something should happen."

Experts encourage parents to talk with both sons and daughters about how to step in or get help if they see any red flags.

For instance, a bystander should be concerned if they see a student failing to respect another student's boundaries, a person pushing drinks on another, or a student who is heavily intoxicated accompanied by someone who is sober.

The family conversation about sexual assault should not end when

the student does to college, said Ruth Anne Koenick, director of the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at Rutgers University. Parents should encourage their children to talk about problems and assure daughters they won't blame them or judge them if something goes wrong.

That's key, Koenick said, because so many women don't seek help because they fear how they'll be treated by authorities and worry that families or other students will find out what happened.

While parents can help, Koenick said, their advice usually doesn't go far enough because it often addresses stranger violence and not acquaintance assault, which is far more common.

"What the individual student does is not the cause of sexual violence," Koenick said. "It's really about the perpetrator. So telling somebody not to drink isn't going to be helpful. Telling a student not to go out at night is not helpful when most sexual violence happens between people who know each other."

Anzano said she has talked with her son, who is attending Ohio State, about safety and respect for others from a young age. She warns her daughter, also in college, to "never put a drink down, and stay in a group" and urges her children to call so she can talk them "through a bad situation" such as a party that has gotten out of hand.

Karen Pennington, vice president of student development and campus life at Montclair State University, said the school tries to convey an atmosphere of openness so students are comfortable talking about problems.

Students learn about alcohol abuse and the link to sexual assault at freshman orientation at Montclair, Pennington said. The lessons continue during freshman year in a course on the transition to college.

Part of the problem, Pennington said, is that students are too trusting.

"They need to remember that not everyone in the world is always primed to do the right thing," Pennington said. "They need to look out for each other and make sure they take common-sense precautions. If they are going out and drinking, (that means) they're with a friend, they don't drink too much, make sure they know what is in their drink."

The programs to increase awareness of sexual violence are not new. Both Rutgers and Montclair State have had such programs for years, but there is greater emphasis now on bystander intervention at campuses across the United States, experts say.

Caryl Romeo, a West Milford mother, said safety was on her mind when her daughter had to walk through a tunnel under a road to get back to the dormitory after class. "I always told her to call me on the phone," Romeo said. "She called me and I talked with her from the minute she left class until I knew she was safely in her dorm."

She feels better knowing that Monmouth University, like most colleges, has call boxes and 24-hour security patrols. She sympathizes with parents parting with their kids for the first time.

"You go through a panic attack that first year when they leave, but realize you have to let them go," she said. "You can't be there with them."

SPOUSE CALLS

Remembering 9/11 and celebrating life

September 2001: Dark green mobility bags, zippered mouths gaping open, mar the order of our living room floor, and our lives. In more peaceful days the bags were forgotten, stacked on top of some boxes in our garage. Now they're spread out on the living room floor, demanding our attention, like the news footage from New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

My husband empties the bags, scrutinizes their contents: T-shirts, camouflage gear, gas mask and other necessities strewn on the carpet. One bag has a small American flag attached, clinging by one corner. It's a reminder of another war, stapled to the canvas at the last minute before a departure 10 years ago. In the relative peace of the intervening years, it was easy to forget what it is now clear to us. Life is uncertain.

Our children troop downstairs for breakfast and short when they see the bags. "Where's Daddy going?" they ask. Television scenes of fallen skyscrapers and airplanes were too distant to change their lives, but the sight of Daddy's bags brings events home to them, and to me.

September 2005: Dark green mobility bags, zipped up and piled on the luggage cart, signal another departure for my husband. The flag is still flying on one bag. I'm glad I sewed it on this time. This will be its fourth trip to another, less peaceful part of the world.

On the way to the airport, we take two of our children for their first day of school. Our youngest stays with me. By the time all the goodbyes are said, and I am driving away from the airport terminal, I am numb. In the back seat, my son is quiet for a while, and then asks again what we've already answered: "How long will Dad be gone? Will he be gone for my birthday?"

"Yes, baby."

In the rearview mirror I see he is holding back tears — four lanes of freeway and no place to pull over. Words are so useless. I want to hold him and cry with him. We've been through this before, but it doesn't get easier.

September 2007: The small flag still waves on one green bag as we prepare for another trip to the airport, another deployment, more uncertainty. But really, the uncertainties of life are always there, relegated to the pile in the garage like the green bags were. Sometimes it's good to bring them into the rooms where we live, examine the contents, pack them up and face the unknown. It makes us more aware and appreciative of the life we live in our nation and the sacrifices that make it possible.

September 2014: This time, it's my bags that are zipped up and ready to go. I'm not headed to a war zone, of course. My beat is the homefront, and I've covered it for nearly 30 years — including 13 anniversary of the day our lives changed forever.

Every year on Sept. 11, we remember the thousands who died that day in 2001, and the thousands of U.S. military men and women who have died since then. We also remember those who live, which brings me to the reason my bags are packed.

I'm going to a party. I have a friend, Karen, whose birthday is Sept. 11. She lives in another state, and I haven't seen her in a while, but this year I'm going to join with other friends to celebrate her life and our friendship.

My military family, like most, can hardly remember a time before that sunny and now sacred Tuesday, when terrorism, war and deployment became household words for us; when uncertainty came into the rooms where we live to remind us that life is fragile and precious. We do remember the reasons for the struggle, which is not over, and the values have demonstrated. Freedom requires sacrifice. Life is indeed precious — and worth celebrating. That's what I will remember today.

Terry Barnes is a military wife and mother of three. She writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes and is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." (Eva Resa) Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com.



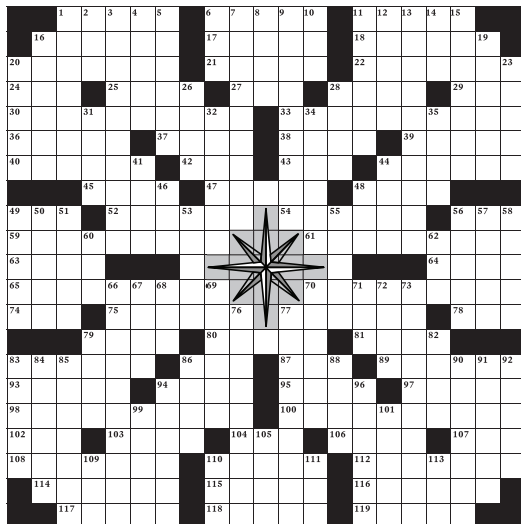
Terry Barnes

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

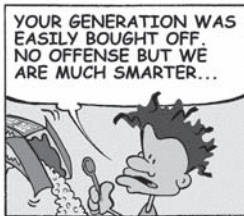
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

ALL-ENCOMPASSING
BY TRACY GRAY AND JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Loaded, in Lyon
- 6 Hosiery hue
- 11 Eagles, Falcons and Cardinals
- 16 Last place
- 17 "No lie!"
- 18 Move out
- 20 Some politicians' trips
- 21 Cub Scout leader
- 22 Salt away
- 24 Shrinks' org.
- 25 What discoveries may yield
- 27 "Right you ___!"
- 28 Abbr. not found on most smartphones
- 29 JFK alternative in N.Y.C.
- 30 Nasty storm, e.g.
- 33 Film director who said, "I think an artist has always to be out of step with his time"
- 36 "___ be praised!"
- 37 Paradoxical figure?
- 38 Fraternity member or muscle, briefly
- 39 Mary who introduced the miniskirt
- 40 Outs, in a way
- 42 "Law & Order" spinoff, informally
- 43 "Yes"
- 44 Orner's sorts
- 45 Didn't take it lying down, say
- 47 ___ child (playful side)
- 48 Ayatollah predecessor
- 49 Indiana Jones nemesis
- 52 Lathered (up)
- 54 Game with falling popularity?
- 56 Native Oklahoman
- 59 Hit from behind
- 61 "Eh, any one is fine"
- 63 Fan of pop's One Direction, maybe
- 64 Veered off course
- 65 Many Winslow Homer works
- 70 Some holiday greenery
- 74 The dark side
- 75 Kidnapping, e.g.
- 77 Island in Pacific W.W. II fighting
- 78 "The cautious seldom ___": Confucius
- 79 Stone of "The Help"
- 80 Atomic clock part
- 81 Flag
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- 1 He walked away with Blaine in "Casablanca"
- 2 Type
- 3 Kicks everyone out, say
- 4 Yoga variety
- 5 Synthetic
- 6 ___ Maria
- 7 Get several views
- 8 Big name in auto racing
- 9 Trendy food regimen
- 10 Long span
- 11 Expensive Super Bowl purchase
- 12 Polished off
- 13 Cousin of a zucchini
- 14 Boca Del ___, Fla.
- 15 Certain bar orders, informally
- 16 Rounded roof
- 19 West Coast city where Nike had its start
- 20 Aladdin's adversary
- 23 Times gone by
- 26 "___ Mine," 1984 Steve Perry hit
- 28 Winter Olympics site after St. Moritz
- 31 Bonny miss
- 32 Like lottery winners, typically
- 34 Gerrymandered, e.g.
- 35 Verdant
- 41 Bright light
- 44 In vogue
- 46 X or Y supplier
- 48 Mister, in Mumbai
- 49 Creative, in a way
- 50 Karate instructor
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- 53 Small flycatcher
- 55 "___ Satanic Majesties Request" (Rolling Stones album)
- 56 Egg?
- 57 Stretching muscle
- 58 Court cry
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- 67 Weapony
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- 71 Sketch show, briefly
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- 79 N.B.A. Hall-of-Famer Monroe
- 82 "___ Nagila"
- 83 Light ___
- 84 Garlic segments
- 85 Empathizes
- 86 P.R. firm's job
- 88 Principal Seymour's girlfriend on "The Simpsons"
- 90 Fullness
- 91 Not going anywhere?
- 92 Stick on the grill?
- 94 Where Excalibur was forged
- 96 Threads
- 99 Delight
- 101 Philosopher Kierkegaard
- 105 Noted Dadaist
- 109 ___ Technical Institute
- 110 Yammer
- 111 Britain's ___ News
- 113 "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" enchanter

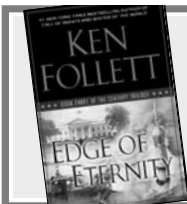
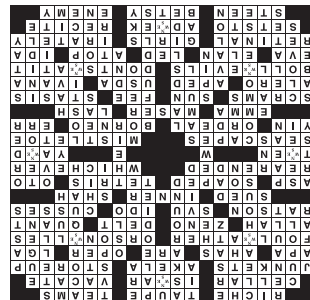


GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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FACES

Nicki Minaj

Her changed look stems from confidence

BY MESFIN FEKADU
The Associated Press

Nicki Minaj, who has recently dropped her colorful and oddball style for a more natural and sophisticated look, says it's because she's more comfortable in her skin.

"I kind of feel now that I look more like my regular old self, like what I look like when I'm at home," she said in an interview Tuesday. "I think there's just a little bit more confidence, and so I'm like, 'It is what it is. I am who I am. I look like what I look like. I don't really have to change much of it anymore.'"

Minaj's new look includes her natural black hair color versus the wild and bright wigs she's worn that helped establish her name in pop culture. At the Fashion Rocks concert Tuesday in Brooklyn, N.Y., where the rapper performed, she wore a blazer and skirt

that came off like a little black dress.

"Just thought it was really, really sexy, but without being tight," she said. "I thought it was different for me."

Onstage, Minaj wore less when performing, her rump-shaking hit "Anaconda," which has peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Her other single, "Bang Bang," with Ariana Grande and Jessie J, is another massive hit, giving the performer two songs in the current Top 5.

The songs appear on her third album, "The Pinkprint," to be released Nov. 24.

"The album is going to be my best body of work," she said. "It's diverse, but it's not trying too hard."

Nicki Minaj attended the Fashion Rocks concert on Tuesday at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. She will release a new album — "The Pinkprint" — on Nov. 24.

CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP



Country singer Merle Haggard still on the road

BY KRISTEN M. HALL
The Associated Press

Even Merle Haggard gets nervous about stepping onto a stage when the audience is filled with songwriters, record label executives and fellow artists.

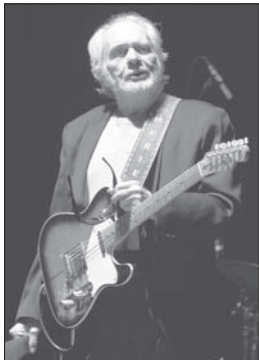
"Well, it's glorious but it's also tough because all the pressure is on you," Haggard said after recently playing two sold-out nights at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. "You've got all those people out there that call you a legend and an icon and all that stuff. You kinda gotta prove it."

But judging from the cheering and ovations, Haggard — who helped create the twangy electrified Bakersfield Sound in country music — still knows how to impress a crowd.

At 77, he tours the country about two weeks each month and recently bought a new tour bus, a sign that he's not interested in retirement from the road. His band, the Strangers, now includes his wife, Theresa, and 21-year-old son Ben, as well as band leader Norman Hamlet, who has been with Haggard since the 1960s.

"It's real tempting to let it all go, but it's taken many years to get to where I am at," Haggard said. "To divorce myself of it earlier than I have to is really not something I want to do."

Haggard had lung surgery after a cancer diagnosis in 2008, and he said an early, but incorrect, diagnosis had him thinking



OWEN SWEENEY, INVISION/AP

Merle Haggard, 77, is still touring the U.S. about two weeks each month and recently bought a new tour bus. His wife, Theresa, as well as his son Ben, 21, are part of Haggard's band, the Strangers.

he had only a short time to live.

"And then they told me, 'No, we're wrong. It's only just a little benign condition that

we can get rid of,'" Haggard said. "It was sort of a disappointment. I was ready to go."

But Haggard said he hasn't had any recurring symptoms, so he's not dwelling on past health problems.

Born outside of Bakersfield, Calif., in 1937, Haggard, the son of Oklahoma migrants, was raised in a converted railway boxcar, the only home his family could afford.

Famous for his prison stint in San Quentin, Haggard said music was his only opportunity out of poverty.

"My decisions have been easy," he said. "It was either back in the cotton patch or go to work in the oil fields. ... They didn't compare with music. I was able to make more money in a beer joint when I first started than I was doing dishes."

The gruff, baritone-voiced singer became known for his classic tunes about drifters, convicts and blue-collar workers, including "Okie From Muskogee," "Mama Tried" and "Workin' Man Blues." But he said that after writing some 700 songs, it's hard to find a subject he hasn't written about yet.

Haggard even took a playful poke at a common topic for current country music: romance blossoming in the back of a pickup truck.

"There seems to be love songs written about mechanical items," Haggard said with a smile. "I never thought about using a tractor as some way of getting laid."



AP

Richard Kiel, left, who played the cable-chomping henchman who tussled with James Bond (Roger Moore, right) in "The Spy Who Loved Me" and "Moonraker," has died. He was 74.

Actor best known for role as Bond villain Jaws dies

Richard Kiel, the towering actor best known for portraying steel-toothed villain Jaws in a pair of James Bond films, has died. He was 74.

Kelley Sanchez, director of communications at Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno, Calif., confirmed Wednesday that Kiel was a patient at the hospital and died. Kiel's agent, Steven Stevens, also confirmed his death. Both declined to provide further details.

The 7-foot, 2-inch performer famously played the cable-chomping henchman who tussled with Roger Moore's Bond in 1977's "The Spy Who Loved Me" and 1979's "Moonraker." Bond quipped of the silent baddie: "His name's Jaws. He kills people."

Despite appearing in several other films and TV shows, such as "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and "The Longest Yard," the role of Jaws was an iconic one Kiel could never escape. "To this day, I go out in sunglasses and a hat because people will shout 'Hey, Jaws!' at me from across the street," he told The Daily Mail earlier this year. "The only way I can explain it is that he's like the Road Runner, which Coyote keeps trying to blow up, but he keeps going."

Born in Detroit, Kiel began appearing in TV shows and films in the 1960s. He published an autobiography in 2002 titled "Making It Big in the Movies."

Other news

■ Showtime announced Wednesday that the comedy "Nurse Jackie," starring Edie Falco, will end its run after an upcoming seventh season. The show wrapped up its sixth season in June and has just begun production on the final season.

■ Florida Georgia Line, who arrived on the scene two years ago with the record "Here's to the Good Times," will host the American Country Countdown Awards on Dec. 15 live from Nashville. The awards show is based on the syndicated radio program "American Country Countdown With Kix Brooks" on Cumulus Media stations.

■ Carrie Underwood, who recently announced she is pregnant, got emotional during an acceptance speech at the annual ACM Honors event after thanking family and friends. Underwood, 31, received the Gene Weed Special Achievement Award on Tuesday in Nashville. When she accepted the award, she said that she was misty-eyed at the performances that evening.

■ Sean Christopher Haire, known to professional wrestling fans as Sean O'Haire, has been found dead in his South Carolina home. Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger said the body of the 43-year-old Haire was found on Tuesday. Clevenger said Wednesday that his office is conducting a joint investigation with the Spartanburg Police Department. He said the cause of death is still under investigation.

From The Associated Press

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OPINION

Enacting a plan for who would lead US in worst-case scenario is a must

By NORMAN ORNSTEIN

Thirteen years ago, the United States was changed in a profound way. A major attack on the homeland by a nonstate foreign actor had never happened before, and the consequences — thousands of deaths, landmarks destroyed and damaged — were terrifying. The policy repercussions, from the Patriot Act to the Guantanamo Bay prison to wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to airport security measures to creation of the Department of Homeland Security to reorganization of the intelligence agencies, were even more far-reaching.

In part as a result of these changes, the United States has gone for 13 years without another devastating terrorist attack. But as the rise of the Islamic State underscores, the threat has not disappeared. As time passes, the access of terrorist groups to powerful weapons, and their sophistication at probing our defenses and recruiting potential attackers, continues to increase.

While the United States has taken many steps to stay one step ahead of terrorists, there is one area in which multiple efforts to protect us have been sidestepped, ignored or abandoned. That area is in continuity of government — ensuring that our fundamental institutions, including Congress, the presidency and the judiciary, are able to immediately reconstitute themselves if shattered by a terrorist attack.

The danger has been apparent since Sept. 11, 2001. United Airlines Flight 93, the plane that crashed in rural Pennsylvania because of the actions of its brave passengers, was like a model for the Capitol. If it had not been delayed on takeoff from Newark, N.J., by 45 minutes, the passengers would not have known they were on a suicide mission, and the plane probably would have hit the Capitol around the same time American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon — causing massive damage and potentially leaving Congress without the constitutionally mandated quorum of half its members required to do business.

Coincidentally, that same morning the Judicial Conference of the United States

The need to preserve and protect continuity in our constitutional institutions is critical.

was meeting at the Supreme Court, a stone's throw from the Capitol. The core of the federal judiciary was there, with Chief Justice William Rehnquist presiding. Conceivably, a direct hit on the east-iron Capitol dome could have created devastating damage to the court building, decimating the judiciary.

When it became clear that the devastation was indeed a terrorist attack, Air Force One took off from Sarasota, Fla., with the president on board, and headed west to heavily protected Air Force bases, while the vice president was hustled into an underground bunker at the White House to safeguard the line of presidential succession. But in the aftermath of the attacks, it became clear that the Presidential Succession Act of 1947 never contemplated an attack carried out with no notice (unlike during the Cold War, when there would be crucial time after nuclear missiles were launched from Siberia) while large numbers of those at the top of the three branches of government were in close proximity. An attack with a suitcase nuclear bomb at a presidential inauguration would be particularly damaging without better rules for government succession in place.

Weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks, I joined with Tom Mann, of the Brookings Institution, to create a Continuity of Government Commission, co-chaired by former White House counsel Lloyd Cutler and former Sen. Alan Simpson, with distinguished scholars, former lawmakers and Cabinet officers as members. We issued three reports — one each on Congress, the presidency and the Supreme Court. We recommended a constitutional amendment to allow emergency interim members of Congress to replace those dead, incapacitated or missing after a massive attack, until the incapaci-

tated could recover and the dead could be replaced in meaningful special elections. This would enable Congress to get up and running legitimately within days after an attack, preventing the need for martial law at the worst possible time.

We recommended a thorough revamping of the Presidential Succession Act to bring it up to date and erase a set of unintended anomalies. We also recommended creation of an interim Emergency Court of Appeals, consisting of the chief judges of the various circuit courts of appeals and the remaining justices of the Supreme Court, in case an attack reduced the Supreme Court below its statutory quorum requirement of six. Having a functioning court of last resort would be critical to settle any questions about the legitimacy of actions by a damaged Congress or about presidential succession.

We had allies across party lines in both houses. But little of consequence happened. There was active opposition to serious action from House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., and House Rules Committee Chairman David Dreier, R-Calif., on the grounds that there should never be an appointed member of the House, no matter the circumstance. But the bigger problems were human nature and lethargy. Creating temporary members of Congress to replace the dead meant requiring members to contemplate their own demise. Congressional leaders of both parties always found other, more immediate problems to deal with.

This was nothing new in U.S. history. Previous revisions of presidential succession, for example, took multiple disasters of presidential assassination to precipitate action. But that is no excuse.

Thirteen years later, the threat is, if anything, greater than it was after Sept. 11. The need to preserve and protect continuity in our constitutional institutions is critical. We are way past time for leaders of both parties to do their duty.

Norman Ornstein is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

Lawmakers lack courage on immigration reform

Sacramento (Calif.) Bee editorial

It seems there's always a perfectly good reason not to fix our broken immigration system. Another election may be coming around the corner, motivated by whatever action is taken, a party majority that might be won or lost.

This fear of taking action, even the right action, has doomed any attempt at immigration reform in recent years. And, sadly, President Barack Obama has succumbed to the same scaremongering, reversing his plan for action by the end of the summer in an evident appeasement to Senate Democrats worried about losing seats on Nov. 4.

Although the Senate passed a pretty decent comprehensive immigration reform bill last year, with both more money for border security and a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already living here, the House has adamantly refused to take it up.

Inaction on important topics is nothing new for Congress, but when the stories about thousands of unaccompanied minors from Central America stacking up at the U.S. border seeking asylum exploded this summer, suddenly the pressure to reform

was back on.

Obama, it seemed, was finally going to make it happen. He said that he would break the reform logjam by using his executive action to make changes to the federal immigration policies, Congress be damned. Sure, it might be reversed when he left office, but a lot of good can be accomplished in two years.

Last week, though, he said he wouldn't do anything big until after the election.

"I'm going to act because it's the right thing for country, but it's more sustainable and more effective if the public knows what the facts are," Obama said on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

With all due respect to the country's commander in chief, horsefeathers.

What facts might change the minds of people who have already decided that a path to citizenship equals amnesty?

How about the fact, reported last week by the Pew Research Center, that 62 percent of undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. have done so for more than a decade and about 21 percent for more than two decades? Or the fact that about 4 million of the 10.4 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. have U.S.-born

children?

If the president is waiting until facts change minds, he will be waiting forever.

But there is one fact that hasn't changed. Public opinion polls have consistently found that most Americans recognize that the country's immigration system needs to be fixed. What they can't agree on — and probably never will — is how it ought to be done. Another survey by the Pew Research Center in late August found a shift downward of the people who think that reform should include both border security and a path to citizenship — about 41 percent of those responding, down from nearly half of the people asked the year before.

Though Obama protested that the election was the reason for the delay, he did acknowledge that the "politics did shift midsummer" by the influx of immigrant minors and the resulting demonstrations at immigration processing centers.

"I want to make sure we get it right," Obama said Sunday.

Getting it done is getting it right. And maybe, just maybe, the polls would be kind to a president who took courageous action no matter how many reasons there were not to do so.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by the Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

WHO losing battle with Ebola (Memphis) Commercial Appeal

Were it not for horribly misguided Islamic religious fanatics in northern Nigeria and tribal Pakistan, the World Health Organization might have been able to eradicate polio this year. And in fact the organization and its health care allies have succeeded in eliminating rinderpest, a disease affecting cattle that is deadly serious if you live in rural parts of the world where your existence depends on cattle.

Thus, in a world grown comfortable with the World Health Organization's track record of containing infectious diseases, the widespread assumption was that it would quickly be on top of the spreading Ebola outbreak. But because of severe budget cuts, First World complacency and Third World inability to implement World Health Organization guidelines, the Ebola outbreak in Africa has sprung out of control and reached epidemic status.

The New York Times, in a story on a diminished organization's inability to cope, asked, "If WHO, the main United Nations health agency, could not quickly muster an army of experts and health workers to combat an outbreak overtaking some of the world's poorest countries, what role entity in the world would do it?"

The immediate answer is that there is none, the heroic efforts of aid organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and the Carter Center notwithstanding. The World Health Organization has been so hollowed out that director general Dr. Margaret Chan, told the Times it was a fantasy to think of her agency as a first responder ready to lead the fight against deadly outbreaks around the world.

Cruelly, the most effective way of combating an unexpected epidemic is to have occurred in a relatively prosperous country. Once the Chinese government owned up to the existence of the deadly pneumonia known as SARS, the disease was contained within a year thanks to hundreds of millions donated by wealthy individuals concerned about the welfare of their workforces. But as Dr. Jim Yong Kim, head of the World Bank and former head of the World Health Organization, told the Times, as soon as SARS burned out, "Those guys disappeared, and we forgot very quickly."

Ebola is a reminder of why "those guys" and the rest of us should not forget. Having occurred in a relatively effective health agency doing vital and humane work, we have a moral obligation to keep it that way.

Immigration reform on hold (Miami Herald)

On June 30, President Barack Obama ordered Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and Attorney General Eric Holder to recommend actions he could take "within my existing legal authority" to fix immigration. The executive order came as the president could have time to explain his plans to the American people. Politics, he solemnly declared, had nothing to do with it.

That strains credulity. With control of the Senate in the balance, the pleas of Democrats in hotly contested races to postpone unilateral action on immigration until after



AERAS DULLEN/AP

Health workers in protective gear leave after carrying the body of a woman that they suspect died from the Ebola virus in Monrovia, Liberia. A surge in Ebola infections is driving a spiraling outbreak in West Africa that is increasingly putting health workers at risk as they struggle to treat an overwhelming number of patients.

the November election probably played a big role in the president's decision. Political calculation apparently trumped Obama's earlier boldness.

His caution may be understandable, up to a point. Losing the Senate to Republicans would further cripple his ability to govern. But he should never have set a deadline unless he was prepared to follow through. Obama's paralyzing second thoughts following bold pronouncements is becoming a habit that disappoints supporters and lends credence to critics who call him weak. In this case, it once again disheartens Latino voters.

They have reason to be discouraged. Credited with providing a critical edge for the winner of the last two presidential elections, they have time and again been disappointed by the president's failure to deliver on promises of immigration reform.

Obama said the executive actions he would contemplate must fall "within my existing legal authorities." Critics deliberately choose to ignore his words and claim he plans to go beyond what the law allows. But there is plenty Obama can do to ease the immigration crisis.

Presidents have wide latitude in this area. That includes giving relief to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, exercising more discretion in deciding who gets a waiver for deportations — and halting all or most deportations of non-criminals for the time being, the boldest step of all. Sooner or later, Obama must act. Advocates of reform who have relied on his promises have been disappointed one time too many.

NFL needs to fire Goodell (Kansas City Star)

National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell wrote his own pink slip with his inexcusable handling of the Ray Rice domestic violence case.

NFL owners should fire Goodell for how poorly he served their multibillion-dollar industry. His actions betrayed the faith that NFL fans — especially women — have in the league and in Goodell's running of it.

A stunning series of events on Monday made it clear that Goodell, who drew a \$44 million paycheck in 2012, has no credibility left when it comes to violence against women by the league's players.

After a series of news websites posted shocking video that showed Rice last February knocking out his future wife in an elevator. The Baltimore Ravens terminated his contract Monday afternoon, and the NFL indefinitely suspended him.

The Ravens and NFL acted correctly, but far too late. And that's largely Goodell's fault.

He already had been assailed, and properly so, by women's groups and others for handing out only a two-game suspension to Rice after the February incident. At the time, the available videotape showed Rice dragging the woman out of the elevator.

contriteness.

It's troubling that the Ravens as well as many NFL teams' executives did not challenge Goodell's decision. Of course, in the cash-centered world of the NFL, they all understood it was aimed at getting a star player back on the field.

In August, months later, Goodell apologized for his stance on the Rice suspension and announced tougher penalties in domestic violence cases.

However, as security tape from the elevator emerged, that ramped up especially troubling questions about Goodell's character and his job performance regarding the Rice case.

Goodell has helped build the NFL into an economic juggernaut. The good-old-boy owners will be tempted to keep the reins in his hands.

Instead, they must show America that the league means business when it says domestic violence and other assaults by players will not be tolerated. Those who don't fully embrace that message — including the commissioner — should not be part of the NFL.

Ebola a costly, crucial battle (Los Angeles Times)

The United Nations warns that the intensive global medical effort needed to contain the Ebola virus sweeping through parts of West Africa could cost as much as \$600 million. Ebola has killed 1,900 people so far — about half of those who have become infected — and has recently crossed from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone into two more nations. U.N. officials estimate that 20,000 people could die in the next six months, and that the situation could worsen after that without a prompt and generous international response of money, equipment and skilled personnel.

But deep budget cuts have crippled the ability of the World Health Organization, the U.N. agency that should be leading the response to the outbreak, to handle these kinds of emergencies. As the Montreal-based Center for Research on Globalization reported last week, "Since the financial collapse of 2008, the WHO budget has been slashed by at least \$1 billion, leading to layoffs of veteran medical staff and a 35% reduction of the agency's emergency response staff."

At the undermining of WHO's ability to be the first responder in global medical crises, the United Nations should have quickly figured out a new scenario — perhaps one under which nations agreed to apportion donations of staff, medicines and other resources, while WHO's role was limited to organizing the international response. It did not do so. The respected nonprofit Doctors Without Borders also has been swamped by the crisis. The director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said last week that the epidemic was "spiraling out of control."

The United States has moved swiftly and generously to help. The Obama adminis-

tration has asked Congress to allocate \$58 million toward research and production of an experimental drug that was used on two U.S. missionaries who were infected in Africa. They survived, but it's not known whether the medication, ZMapp, was the reason. The money also would be used for testing two promising experimental vaccines. In addition, the U.S. Agency for International Development has committed to spending nearly \$100 million on protective suits for medical personnel, beds for patients and food aid; the U.S. will also recruit U.S. medical staff and employ the military to help on the ground.

At this point, the U.S. appears to be in a better position to organize and lead the international response than WHO, perhaps in coordination with that agency. But the U.S. shouldn't have to pick up most of the \$600 million tab itself. Doctors Without Borders last week criticized what it perceived to be a lackluster global response and called on governments around the world to mobilize military and civilian biological disaster teams. Developed nations should be answering the call, right away. And once WHO has been helped through this humanitarian crisis, the United Nations must determine a way to ensure WHO's role in future international medical disasters.

Rice, NFL: Too little, too late (Toronto Star)

The video is sickening. Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice knocks his fiancée — now wife — out cold in an Atlantic City hotel elevator, drags her into the hall, and steps aside.

He doesn't reach down to see if Janay Palmer is OK after the full-out punch to her head, or attend to her. It takes others who come upon the appalling scene — her crumpled on the floor, unconscious, her skirt up — to show concern.

When the video was released Monday by TMZ Sports, generating a rip tide of public disgust, it soon galvanized the National Football League and the Baltimore Ravens into action. The NFL suspended Rice indefinitely (as did the Canadian Football League) and the Ravens fired him.

But too late. The damage was done. This sorry episode has shamed the Ravens, the NFL and the authorities who handled the case. Because there is nothing in the video that the team, league and police didn't know before its public release. But they were clearly more eager to explain away Rice's violence, and to get a sports icon back into the \$10 million game, than to make an example of him.

The assault happened in February when the Ravens knew from the police summons that Rice had caused "bodily injury to Janay Palmer, specifically by striking her with his hand, rendering her unconscious." She could have suffered far worse. That was the medical emergency Janay Rice had been imposed. But they failed to take it as seriously as it warranted.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell decided in his wisdom that a mere two-game suspension and a fine — for Rice who still owns a \$10 million contract — was not a sufficiently strong message on domestic violence to send out, even as the league promotes the game to female viewers. This from a league that suspends players for a year for puffing dog. The Ravens, meanwhile, were content to parade a contrite Rice before the media. The NFL's punishment had been thought a "diversion" program was punishment enough for a man initially indicted for aggravated assault, which could have put him in prison for years.

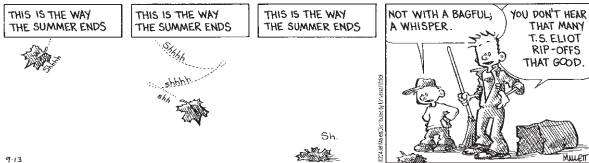
What are the 1.3 million women in the U.S. who will face domestic violence this year? What about the countless women in general? That celebrity violence gets a pass, unless it can't be ignored?

Rice himself has said his actions were "inexcusable." Yet the league had to be shamed by a display of his raw brutality and callous indifference into treating his violence seriously. The NFL and Ravens must seize opportunity to stand up for victims of abuse.

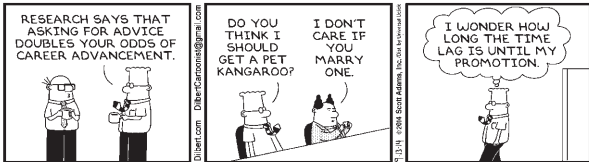


Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals N

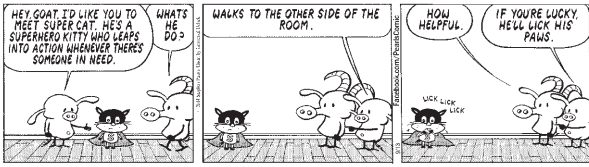
Frazz



Dilbert



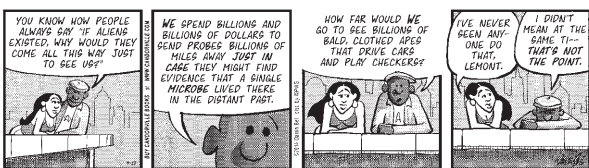
Pearls Before Swine



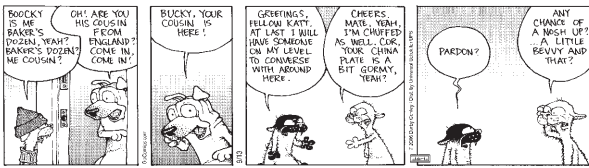
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



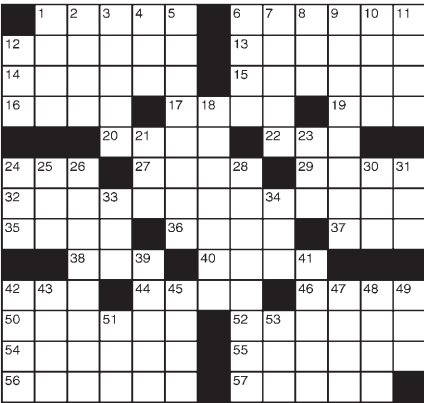
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Like-minded groups
- 6 Lyric poet of Lesbos
- 12 Elephant driver
- 13 Hateful
- 14 Tense
- 15 Glittery decoration
- 16 Marceau, notably
- 17 As well
- 19 "— not choose to run"
- 20 Jerry Herman show
- 22 Perch
- 24 Fuss and feathers
- 27 Paraphernalia
- 29 Thailand, once
- 32 Hamlet's options
- 35 Flower shop vessel
- 36 Half a ticket
- 37 Part of four state names
- 38 Mame's man
- 40 Norwegian royal name
- 42 Toss in
- 44 Writer's inspiration
- 46 Showed unoriginality
- 50 Lifts
- 52 Groomsman's garb
- 54 Dances or Forlani
- 55 Tire patterns
- 56 Eight kings of England
- 57 Exalt

DOWN

- 1 "How — Be Sure"
- 2 Throat clearer
- 3 Cyberspace access
- 4 Prizefighter
- 5 Soft-shell clams
- 6 Drunkards
- 7 Francisco's farewell
- 8 Cushion insert
- 9 Stance
- 10 Colored
- 11 Christianity, today
- 12 Off-tattooed word
- 13 Sheds
- 21 Back in time
- 23 Follower (Suff.)
- 24 Off-roader, for short
- 25 "— good deed"
- 26 Glass made from lava
- 28 Casino game
- 30 Honest politician
- 31 Kitten's comment
- 33 "A mouse!"
- 34 Schedule abbr.
- 39 Manicurist's abrasive
- 41 Sends by phone
- 42 St. Louis attraction
- 43 "Over hill, over —"
- 45 Works with
- 47 Pinnacle
- 48 Vortex
- 49 Two, in Tijuana
- 51 Round Table address
- 53 Samovar

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-13

CRYPTOQUIP

PROYPRDD XRDD-HI-IRCYM
EXH ERO R PNQ PSMKYZ HZ
YJYMBPHKB CHOA HI AX Y

ANCY: HZSO ERQZYM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEACH BOYS TRACK HYPING BARBECUE COOKERS PRODUCED IN THE GOLDEN STATE: "CALIFORNIA GRILLS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals O

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Anticipation high for Tokyo gaming convention

By ERIC GUZMAN
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The Tokyo Game show, one of the biggest events on every gamer's calendar, is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of people to Chiba's Makuhari Messe convention hall in next week.

In its 24th year, the show promises more action and surprises than ever on Sept. 18-21. Major players such as Sony and Microsoft are slated to make announcements about their current flagship gaming consoles alongside big revelations from Google and other companies that are breaking into the gaming

The theme of the 24th Tokyo Game show is "Changing Games: Transformation of Fun."

industry.

The attendance record for the event, run by the Computer Entertainment Supplier's Association, was broken last year, with more than 270,000 visitors from more than 36 countries.

This year's gathering looks to be just as popular, with no shortage of new games and peripherals vying for attention in eight crowded halls.

The theme this year is "Changing Games: Transformation of Fun."

With the major gaming consoles still in their nascent stages, the potential for big revelations is nearly limitless, as the technologies running each system have yet to meet their full potential.

Square Enix and Sony have developed a notably strong presence here.

Anticipation is running high for popular titles "Destiny" and "Kingdom Hearts."

Sept. 18 and 19 are considered business days and are not open to the public; all comers are welcome for the weekend.

guzman.eric@stripes.com

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (Sept. 12)	\$1.3270	
Dollar buys (Sept. 12)	0.7536	
British pound (Sept. 12)	\$1.67	
Japanese yen (Sept. 12)	104.00	
South Korean won (Sept. 12)	1,008.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771	
British pound	\$1.6220/0.6165	
Canada (dollar)	1.1006	
China (Yuan)	6.1300	
Denmark (Krone)	5.7554	
Egypt (Pound)	1.1525	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2934/0.7732	
Hungary (Forint)	1.7505	
Israel (Shekel)	3.2693	
Japan (Yen)	106.96	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2865	
Norway (Krone)	6.3707	
Philippines (Peso)	43.94	
Poland (Zloty)	3.24	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7208	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2635	
South Korea (Won)	1,037.44	
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9352	
Thailand (Baht)	32.18	
Turkey (Lira)	1.1975	

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.75
Federal funds market rate	0.02
3-month bill	0.09
30-year bond	3.27

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.760	\$3.035	\$4.104	\$4.117
Change in price	-0.2 cents	-0.6 cents	-0.2 cents	no change
Netherlands	--	\$4.727	\$5.007	\$4.852
Change in price	--	-2.0 cents	-1.9 cents	-1.7 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.905	\$4.078	\$4.085
Change in price	--	-0.6 cents	-0.5 cents	no change
Azores	--	--	\$4.050	--
Change in price	--	--	-0.2 cents	--
U.K.	--	\$3.838	\$4.026	\$4.240
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$4.212	\$4.808
Change in price	--	--	-0.7 cents	no change
Italy	--	\$4.085	--	--
Change in price	--	no change	--	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.789	--	\$3.799
Change in price	--	no change	--	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.599	--	--	\$3.799
Change in price	no change	--	--	-1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.579	--	\$3.929	\$3.939
Change in price	-1.0 cents	--	no change	no change
Guam	\$3.569**	\$3.740	\$3.919	--
Change in price	-1.0 cents	no change	no change	--

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Sep. 13-19

MARKET WATCH

Sept. 10, 2014	
Dow Jones	54.84
Industrials	17,068.71
Nasdaq composite	34.23
Poor's 500	4,586.52
Standard & Poor's 500	7.25
Russell 2000	1,995.69
Dollar	6.49
1,164.99	

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures																							
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chattanooga	84	70	Cldy	Fort Wayne	63	48	Cldy	Louisville	75	60	PCldy	Pocatello	68	30	Cldy	Sioux City	57	43	Cldy
Ableene, Tex	72	67	Rain	Cheney	49	30	Cldy	Fresno	102	69	Cldy	Lubbock	65	59	PCldy	Portland, Maine	69	55	Cldy	Sioux Falls	56	40	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	69	48	Cldy	Chicago	60	51	Cldy	Goodland	51	36	Snow	Macon	92	71	PCldy	Portland, Ore.	85	52	Cldy	South Bend	62	46	Cldy
Albuquerque	66	51	Cir	Cincinnati	72	55	PCldy	Grand Junction	75	42	Cir	Madison	78	54	Cir	Providence	73	61	PCldy	Spartanburg	72	38	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	72	59	Cir	Cleveland	66	51	Cldy	Grand Rapids	60	45	Cldy	Medford	96	55	Cir	Pueblo	55	40	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	66	51	Cldy
Anchorage	60	50	PCldy	Colorado Springs	52	39	Cldy	Great Falls	63	39	Cldy	Memphis	77	66	Cldy	Reno	78	70	Cldy	Springfield, Mo.	65	53	Cldy
Amarillo	58	48	Rain	Columbia, S.C.	87	72	Cldy	Green Bay	55	41	Cldy	Miami Beach	86	76	Rain	Richmond	77	70	Cldy	Tampa	90	77	Cldy
Annapolis	72	62	PCldy	Columbia, Ga.	92	73	PCldy	Harrisburg	59	47	Cldy	Milwaukee	69	56	PCldy	Roanoke	76	68	Cldy	Tulsa	63	49	Cldy
Asheville	78	64	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	70	53	PCldy	Hartford	57	37	Cldy	Milwaukee	56	49	Rain	Rochester	63	50	Cldy	Wichita	61	54	Cldy
Atlanta	88	73	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	91	77	Cldy	Helena	67	30	Cldy	Missoula	70	27	Cldy	Salt Lake City	71	44	Cldy	Wichita Falls	73	64	Cldy
Atlantic City	76	66	PCldy	Corpus Christi	76	71	Rain	Honolulu	90	75	Cldy	Montgomery	94	73	PCldy	San Antonio	81	77	Rain	Wilkes-Barre	69	53	Cldy
Austin	88	75	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	76	71	Rain	Houston	91	76	Rain	Nashville	80	65	Cldy	San Diego	82	71	Cldy	Wilmington, Del.	65	50	PCldy
Baltimore	60	28	Cir	Dayton	68	52	Cldy	Houstonville	83	70	Cldy	New Orleans	90	77	Rain	St. Louis	67	54	PCldy	Yonkers	77	69	Cldy
Baton Rouge	92	73	PCldy	Daytona Beach	89	76	PCldy	Indianapolis	68	51	PCldy	New Orleans	90	77	Rain	St. Petersburg	69	58	Cldy				
Billings	60	28	PCldy	Denver	50	35	Cldy	Jacksonville	88	73	PCldy	New Orleans	90	77	Rain	St. Petersburg	69	58	Cldy				
Birmingham	60	28	Cir	Des Moines	56	47	Cldy	Jacksonville	88	73	PCldy	New Orleans	90	77	Rain	St. Petersburg	69	58	Cldy				
Bismarck	57	30	Cldy	Detroit	66	53	Cldy	Jacksonville	88	73	PCldy	New York City	72	62	Cir	St. Thomas	90	79	PCldy	Waco	85	72	Rain
Boise	75	42	Cir	Duluth	55	38	Cldy	Juneau	59	47	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	77	74	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	88	46	Cldy	Washington	77	69	PCldy
Boston	69	60	Cldy	El Paso	83	69	Rain	Juneau	59	47	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	77	74	Cldy	Salt Lake City	71	44	Cldy	Washington	77	69	PCldy
Bridgetown	73	61	Cldy	Elkins	73	58	Cldy	Kansas City	58	52	Rain	Norman, Okla.	85	76	PCldy	San Antonio	81	77	Rain	Waco	85	72	Rain
Brownsville	90	77	Rain	Erie	65	53	Cldy	Key West	89	82	Rain	Oklahoma City	65	61	Cldy	San Antonio	81	77	Rain	Wichita	61	54	Cldy
Buffalo	63	50	Cldy	Eugene	89	43	Cir	Knoxville	81	69	Cldy	Omaha	58	45	Cldy	San Diego	82	71	Cldy	Wichita Falls	73	64	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	64	49	PCldy	Evansville	72	58	Cldy	Lake Charles	87	76	Rain	Orlando	68	61	Cldy	San Diego	82	71	Cldy	Wilkes-Barre	69	53	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	61	47	Cir	Fairbanks	68	43	PCldy	Lansing	60	45	Cldy	Pasadena	73	60	Cldy	San Jose	87	61	Cldy	Wilmington, Del.	65	50	PCldy
Charlotte, S.C.	89	73	PCldy	Fargo	58	33	PCldy	Lexington	74	60	PCldy	Pasadena	73	60	Cldy	San Jose	87	61	Cldy	Yonkers	77	69	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	83	70	Rain	Flagstaff	77	43	Cir	Lincoln	59	44	Rain	Peoria	63	50	Cldy	St. Louis	67	54	PCldy				
Chattanooga, Tenn.	89	73	PCldy	Flint	62	49	Cldy	Lincoln	59	44	Rain	Philadelphia	77	65	PCldy	Seattle	75	48	Cldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	83	70	Rain	Fort Smith	71	66	Rain	Los Angeles	91	68	Cir	Pittsburgh	70	53	PCldy	Shreveport	90	76	Cldy				
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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

Cross country

Trying to fill champs' shoes

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — If this year's Pacific high school cross country season featured some mantra, it might be: "Bring on the next ones!"

DODDS runners who won championships in the Far East meet last November have either graduated (Kadena's Andrew Kilkenny and Ana Hernandez in Division I) or transferred (Zama's Jarek Hibler in Division II) and a new generation of runners stands poised to fill their shoes.

Since Far East began scoring D-I and D-II team scores separately, no D-I runner has won the overall title in the 3.1-mile individual race on Day 1. Zama might have somebody who can fit the bill, a sophomore who played football a season ago, Kai Cordrey.

"The kid can fly," said Trojans coach Glenn Preston, adding that Cordrey has the potential to become the next great Zama runner, following in the footsteps of Hibler, Andrew Quallo and Kevin Blackburn of the mid-2000s and James Harris in 1984.

To Preston, it doesn't seem like Cordrey is running hard, but enjoying it like a 5-year-old enjoys the playground. "He just looks like he's cruising," Preston said. "I think he's faster than Jarek. I read about Quallo; he was really good. I remember his times. That kid could fly."

So what is Cordrey capable of? "I don't know; it's too soon to say," Preston said.

One hyperbolic coach at Zama said he would take Cordrey against the entire Far East meet field. "I have to show them in the meets, then," Cordrey said.

He'll certainly have much company on the boys side. There's reigning DODDS Japan champion Daniel Galvin of Yokota, second overall at Far East; Hunter Pienec and Javier Michael of Kadena, the heirs apparent to Kilkenny; and American School In Japan's threesome of Ryan



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena sophomore Wren Renquist will try to succeed graduated two-time Far East champion and former teammate Ana Hernandez.

Nishida, Will Thorbecke and Evan Yukevich.

Galvin found himself racing against the clock in the truck season last spring; he feels he can only get better with that kind of competition. "In the long run, it will help me," he said.

But while Galvin expects a tough, suspenseful Far East race, he feels his own Kanto Plain regular-season schedule could be tougher, because ASIJ is not a regular Far East meet attendee. "Winning Kanto will be harder than winning Far East, because ASIJ is the best team in the Pacific right now," Galvin said.

ASIJ athletics director Brian Kelley says school administration is pondering accepting any invitation it might get to Far East. Mustangs teams regularly participate in the Asia-Pacific Invitational on Guam.

While the boys field in Japan and Okinawa look strong, Korea brings two potentially strong girls to the table in Nicole Castro of Humphreys and Hannah Frederick of Seoul American. That's in addition to Kadena's Wren Renquist, a sophomore who finished second at Far East.

They and any other girls runner will go up against a fresh face from Seisen International School in Tokyo — Brittani Shappell, a freshman who set the Pacific record in the 1,500 of 4 minutes, 59.85 seconds and the northwest Pacific 3,000 mark in 11:01.6 ... as a sixth-grader.

She's the only runner to post multiple sub-13-minute times on the 2.1-mile course at Tama Hills Recreation Center.

"I've been watching her grow and I'm very excited to see

her run in a varsity race," said Kadena coach Tom McKinney of Shappell.

McKinney and the Panthers swept every D-I individual and team award there was to win at last year's Far East meet. While a boys repeat may be realistic, a girls repeat may be a long shot.

"As a team, I think on island, we'll be OK," he said. "Going up to mainland, racing at Far East where we know the course, I think the kids will know what to do and step up."

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At a glance

Boys runners to watch — Daniel Galvin, Yokota, 10th at Far East in 2012; 2nd last year; Javier Michael, Kadena, 10th last year; Johnathan Johnson, Kubasaki, 16th last year; Thomas McGrath, E.J. King, 8th in Far East Division II last year; Carson Russell, Zama, 10th in D-II last year.

Girls runners to watch — Sam Arnold, Yokota, 5th at Far East in 2012; Wren Renquist, Kadena, 2nd at Far East last year; Sam Fujita, Kubasaki, 15th last year; Bobbi Hill, M.C. Perry, 2nd at Division II last year; Nicole Castro, Humphreys, 3rd in D-II last year; Kaitlin VanDusen, MCP, 4th in D-II last year; Amelia McGrath, E.J. King, 5th in D-II last year; Emilia Kirk, EJK, 10th in D-II last year.

Team to watch — Kadena's boys, going for yet another Division I banner; Zama chasing a Division II banner.

Key dates — Oct. 9, Guam All-island finals; Oct. 17-18, Asia-Pacific Invitational on Guam; Oct. 25, Kanto Plain finals at Tama Hills, 2nd; Oct. 22, Okinawa district finals; Oct. 25, Korea finals; Nov. 3-4, Far East meet at Camp Fuji, Ikego Heights Naval Housing Facility, Japan.

Also — He ran middle-school cross country but sat out the last two years. As a promising sophomore, Kai Cordrey of Zama and his coach Glenn Preston say he's poised to make a run at DODDS Japan and Kanto champion Galvin and possibly become a rare Division II overall Far East race winner. ... Whispering Pines golf course on Naval Air Facility Atsugi, which has hosted the Far East meet team relay the last two years, was not available on Nov. 4, so Ikego Heights Naval Housing Facility will host it instead, organizers said.

Tennis

Departures leave fresh faces in charge

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Lily Oliver might be new to the DODDS Pacific tennis scene. But she's not new to tennis.

Oliver, a freshman, is Kadena's new top singles seed, and she wasted little time winning her first two matches in a Panther uniform on Thursday.

"She's a very talented player," Kadena coach Annie Woo said of Oliver.

The daughter of the Kadena Officers Club manager, Lily has been playing tennis since she was 4 years old. She regularly goes up against Japanese and adult opponents.

"I started as a kid because it seemed easy, but then I started to like it," Lily Oliver said.

She's now the torch bearer of Panther tennis, taking over for a sister tandem that dominated the past two seasons. Kristin and Alex Howard are gone, the former having graduated, the latter having transferred for her senior year.

Aside from Oliver's tennis talent, Woo says she likes Oliver's on-court demeanor. "She doesn't look like she stresses on the court," Woo said. "She stays focused, she knows what she needs to do. You can see she's had a lot of experience."

Oliver began her Panther tenure by beating Kubasaki's No. 1 singles seed Allie Powers 6-1, 6-0, then teamed with sophomore Rita Feight to beat Powers and Haley Agra 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) in the first doubles match.

Woo says she feels Oliver has a

shot at big things in singles both on island and at Far East, and in doubles with Feight.

Sadly, the transfer rumor is due to send her stateside in March.

Kubasaki did end a bit of inglorious history on Thursday as the Dragons girls won the Okinawa matchup for the first time in four years, behind lower seeds Sarah Walter, Mary Neitzke, Leigh Trumble and Troi Cavanaugh.

On the boys side, Woo has hopes for 2012 Far East mixed doubles champion Nic Lay, now a senior, and his doubles teammate Danny Wartella. "If Danny stays up his game, they have a chance," Woo said.

With most of the American School In Japan crew that won all but two Far East tournament events and the overall team championship graduated, the race for Division I team titles could be wide open. Only Lily Kobayashi and Nana Yoshimura return for the Mustangs.

Seoul American figures to make D-I noise, with doubles players Grace Cho, Ashley Shirriff and Nick Gagnet returning; each took third in Far East events last year.

And back at the helm of the Falcons is David R. Abbott, who coached the team for one season in 2011, winning the D-I title.

Yokota could also be strong, with Chris Beemsterboer and Jacob Mansberger on the boys side and Kaia Austin and Rimi Bargmon on the girls. Junior move-in Benjamin O'Connor is a "solid player," coach Tommy Palmer said.

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At a glance

Boys players to watch — Nicholas Lay, Kadena, second in Far East mixed doubles in 2012; Nick Gagnet, Seoul American, third in Far East mixed doubles in 2013.

Girls players to watch — Grace Cho, Jr., and Ashley Shirriff, Jr., Seoul American, third in Far East doubles in 2013.

Teams to watch — Kadena, going for its third straight Far East Division I tournament title in four years; Seoul American, with David Abbott returning as coach; in his one season, 2011, his team won the D-I banner; Kubasaki's girls boast their best five seeds in coach Stephanie Davis' tenure.

Key dates — Oct. 20, Okinawa district

doubles finals; Oct. 24-25, DODDS Japan finals at Zama; Oct. 27, Okinawa district singles finals; Oct. 28, Kanto Plain finals; Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Korea finals; Oct. 23, Okinawa district mixed doubles finals; Nov. 3-4, Far East tournament at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

Also — Almost the entire complement of American School In Japan players who dominated last year's Far East Tournament on Okinawa have graduated; only girls doubles runners-up Lily Kobayashi and Nana Yoshimura return. ... Girls doubles champion Alex Howard was expected back after spending most of her life on Okinawa.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

Players to watch

Erica Balkum, AFRNORTH: A small and inexperienced Lions team will need the finishing ability of this multi-sport star to compete.

Tiffani Driscoll, Rota: No pressure or anything, but the senior middle blocker replaces DODDS-Europe legend Aspen Luna as Admirals captain.

Hannah Gunsch, Brussels: The freshman middle hitter is stepping into an ideal situation with the Brigands: a mix of available playing time and senior guidance.

Amelia Heath, Hohenfels: Playing both setter and outside hitter, the returning junior will be a focal point of a determined Tigers squad.

Sydney Moore, Sigonella: Leading an entirely new starting lineup into an uncertain title defense that will likely end with a higher level of competition? If anyone's up to the task, it's Moore.

Montgomery Sauter, Ramstein: The Royals have high hopes for this intriguing new player, a sophomore already well-seasoned in stateside prep, club and beach competition.

Amanda Seay, Vilsack: This sophomore setter should have a lot of weapons at her disposal on a well-stocked Falcons squad.

Keylee Soto, Naples: A centerpiece of Wildcats athletics, the reigning Division II champs will need her leadership if they're indeed bound for Division I.

Solihyah Stevens-Oguz, Vicenza: A sophomore setter should segue nicely into an even better senior campaign for the Cougars outside hitter.

Ellen Tafaya, Wiesbaden: She was already All-European as a sophomore, but early reports from the Warriors say she's reached another level.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden's Ellen Tafaya knocks the ball over the net in an opening-round match at last season's DODDS Europe championships in Kaiserslautern. Tafaya will be returning for the Warriors when the 2014 season starts this weekend.

Volleyball teams set to shuffle

Division realignment promises to give new look to tournament

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

When the 2014 DODDS Europe girls volleyball season begins Saturday, it will do so without a clear view of its endgame.

DODDS Europe athletic director Karen Seadore said this week that the organization is still involved in an ongoing "discussion" of how it will align its teams into divisions for the European tournament, adding that "a final decision has not been made on any movement of schools."

DODDS Europe uses the divisional system to ensure teams compete for championships against schools of comparable size. This year's tournament is set for Oct. 30-Nov. 1 at Kaiserslautern Military Community.

Eventual realignment could take a lot of forms, and it's possible DODDS Europe will settle on retaining the existing three-division arrangement. But that structure has grown increasingly untenable as the Division II ranks have swelled.

Former Division III powers Rota and Alconbury moved up to Division II last year; the resulting 15-team Division II championship bracket was more crowded than the six-team Division I and eight-team Division III brackets combined. Bamberg, has since closed and Lejtes isn't fielding a team this year, making last year's D-III bracket even smaller.

While DODDS Europe sorts out its eventual postseason, however, teams across the continent are left to focus on the regular-season schedules in front of them.

As the reigning Division I champion, Ramstein will be a

challenge for any team it encounters. The Royals count All-Europe standouts Chera Jensen and Natalie Sell among five returning varsity players.

But work remains for the Royals. The team will field just three seniors; it may take a sizeable chunk of the regular season to shuffle its new talent into an ideal mix.

Other large schools across DODDS Europe are dealing with similar challenges.

A new era is under way in Lakenheath, where the 2013 runner-up Lancers are rebuilding without longtime cornerstone and DODDS Europe girls Athlete of the Year Jourdan Hodge. Incumbent starters Jade Julien, Shannon Cox and Kayla Langster will lead the effort.

Patch, another strong Division I contender last year, returns five varsity players and has just two seniors on the team. Libro Janey Greenberg and setter Kaela Lynch will form the core of the new-look Panthers.

Other big schools, meanwhile, are hoping relative continuity will give them an edge.

Vilsack has seven varsity players back and five more moving up from junior varsity Sophomores Amanda Seay and Mohagony Lediju will team with senior Amira Murray to headline a versatile Vilsack group that might be primed for a strong postseason run.

Wiesbaden coach Linnea Velsvaag reports similar optimism with six varsity returnees, including All-Europe middle blocker Ellen Tafaya, and a favorable summer of roster turnover.

Defending Division II champion Naples, meanwhile, is working under the assumption that it



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Naples' All-Europe senior Aundrea Hall, left, seen here in last season's Division II championship match against AOSR, is one of six returnees for the Wildcats when the season begins this weekend.

will be boosted to the Division I ranks. Though the Wildcats' losses are substantial, they'll move on with six returnees, including All-Europe senior Aundrea Hall, and a promising group of reinforcements.

Regardless of where it lands in the prospective divisional shuffle, Naples will find plenty of competition in its own country. Last year's runner-up, American Overseas School of Rome, started its school year later than its DODDS Europe counterparts and won't debut until Sept. 20, but history suggests the Falcons will be formidable. Vicenza has six players back from its semifinal team.

Count SHAPE among other 2013 Division II teams that might be in for a tougher road to a championship match.

While some established Divi-

sion II teams may be bumped up a level, Division III elites like Sigonella and Brussels might also find themselves swimming in larger ponds.

Sigonella beat out Brussels for the title last year, but returns only powerful All-Europe hitter Sydney Moore from that squad. Brussels has a bit more experience in seniors Sarah Mobley and Lola Helbling.

Boys: There's no such uncertainty about alignment at the boys level, where Black Forest Academy will join the eventual championship field among Italian schools AOSR (defending champion), Aviano, Marymount, Naples, Vicenza and Sigonella, and Turkish entries Ankara and Incirlik.

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Andrea Hlavackova, Czech Republic, def. Paula Kania, Poland, 6-3, 6-0.
Second Round
Shelby Rogers, United States, def. Asia Muhammad, United States, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (2), 7-6 (5).
Tatjana Maria, Germany, def. Madison Brengle, United States, 6-4, 6-4, 6-0.
Kiki Karantachia, Kazakhstan, def. Kristina Mladenovic (3), France, 5-7, 6-4.

Julia Georges (5), Germany, def. Melaine Oudin, United States, 6-2, 6-2.

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Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles

Bojana Jovanovski (1), Serbia, def. Alla Kudryavtseva, Russia, 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-3.
Lina Tsouras, Ukraine, def. Maria-Camela Begu (2), Romania, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (3).
Karin Karlic, Italy, def. Aleksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, 6-2, 6-2.
Urszula Radwanska, Poland, def. Donika Mokic (5), Croatia, 6-4, 6-2.
Olga Govortsova, Belarus, def. Misaki Doi (6), Japan, 6-3, 6-3.
Alga Amunuradova, Uzbekistan, def. Lyudmila Kichenko, Ukraine, 6-1, 6-2.

Nigina Abduraimova, Uzbekistan, def. Alexandra Panova, Russia, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Ksenia Pervak, Russia, def. Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, 6-2, 7-6 (3).

Hong Kong

Wednesday
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Hong Kong
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Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles

Daniela Hantuchova (2), Slovakia, def. Zhang Ling, Hong Kong, 6-1, 6-4.
Sabine Lisicki (1), Germany, def. Grace Min, United States, 6-2, 6-2.
Seahsi Zhang, China, def. Yanina Wickmayer, Belgium, 6-2, 6-2.
Kiki Bertens, Netherlands, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.
Francesca Schiavone, Italy, def. Kimiko Date-Krumm, Japan, 6-3, 6-0, retired.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
National League
CINCINNATI REDS — Acquired RHP Kyle Lohse from the Atlanta Braves from Milwaukee to complete the Aug. 31 trade. Cincinnati sent Brian Broxton to Milwaukee.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
SKY LINE WARRIORS — Signed G Leandro Barbosa.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Announced LB Jonathan Abramson from Miami was granted a roster exemption. Retired QB Marcus Brown was released.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed DT David Steen from the practice squad. Steve Loeffler, offensive line coach, Ryan Oertel to the practice squad. Placed TE Tyler Eifert on the injured reserve practice squad.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed OL Ryan Seymour to the practice squad. Placed RB Cameron Brate on the injured reserve practice squad.

NEW YORK LIONS — Signed OL Garrett Reynolds.

CHARGERS — Placed C Nick Hardwick on injured reserve. Placed CB Matt Bucchianeri — Placed CB Matt Jenkins on injured reserve. Waived DE Scott Solomon. Claimed DE Jacques Scott from waivers from Buffalo. Signed CB Crezdon Butler.

National Hockey League

FLYING BLUE — Announced by Free agent F Saku Kovacs announced his retirement.

ANHEIM DUCKS — Agreed to terms with coach Bruce Boudreau on a two-year contract, extension through the 2017 season.

SOCER
National Women's Soccer League
FC Gold Pride — Announced Caitlin Ford signed with Perth Glory (A-League W-League).

College football

Schedule

Friday, Sept. 12

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Pro baseball

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Pro soccer

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OLYMPICS/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Pistorius avoids murder conviction

Judge hints of culpable homicide, saying he was negligent in shooting

By GERALD IMRAY
AND CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
The Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa — The judge in Oscar Pistorius' trial ruled out a murder conviction for the double-amputee Olympian Thursday in the shooting death of his girlfriend but said he was negligent, raising the possibility he'll be convicted of culpable homicide.

The verdict in the case that has riveted much of South Africa and the world is expected on Friday when Judge Thokozile Masipa re-convenes the judgment phase, climaxing the trial that began in March.

If Pistorius is acquitted of murder, he could still be sent to jail for a maximum of 15 years if convicted of culpable homicide, which is the killing of someone through reckless or negligent behavior, although five years in prison is a guideline when a firearm is used.

The red-robed Masipa, sitting in the dais and looking down at Pistorius and the packed courtroom, said she felt Pistorius acted negligently when he fired four times through a toilet door in his home in the pre-dawn hours of Valentine's Day last year. In a moment of high-drama, Masipa then stopped reading out her verdict in the six-month-long trial and adjourned until Friday.

Because there is no trial by jury in South Africa, Masipa is expected to explain exactly why she and her two legal aides came to the decision they have before the judge issues the verdict.

"I am of the view that the accused acted too hastily and with excessive force," Masipa said of Pistorius' actions that night.

She said the prosecution had not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Pistorius committed premeditated murder. She also ruled out a lesser murder charge. As she

spoke, Pistorius began sobbing quietly on the wooden bench, his shoulders shaking.

Murder is an illegal, intentional killing. A premeditated, or planned, murder would carry a heavier sentence in the event of a conviction.

The world-famous athlete has acknowledged firing the shots through the toilet door in his home, hitting Steenkamp in the head, arm and hip area with hollow-point bullets from his 9 mm pistol. He said he mistook her for an intruder and denied murder, but the judge said Pistorius still could have taken other action, like calling the police or security at his housing estate.

"Did the accused fail to take steps he should have taken? Yes," Masipa said. "He failed to take any steps to take the death."

The prosecution alleged that the athlete intentionally killed his girlfriend, a model and budding reality TV star, after a long nighttime argument heard by neighbors. Masipa said there were "just not enough facts" to support the finding of premeditated murder or the lesser murder without pre-planning.

"The accused cannot be found guilty of murder," the judge said.

At the start of the judgment hearing, Masipa told Pistorius, 27, that he should remain seated on the bench while she read her findings out and until she asked him to stand for the verdict.

In her hours-long assessment of witness evidence, she called Pistorius a "very poor witness" who had lost his composure on the stand and was at times "evasive." But Masipa emphasized that did not mean he was guilty of murder.

The 66-year-old judge also cast doubt on witness accounts of hearing a woman's screams, a key part of the prosecution's case. The defense had argued that it was Pistorius who was screaming in a high-pitched voice after discovering he had fatally shot Steenkamp.

Pistorius faced 25 years to life in prison if convicted of premeditated murder. He also faced a minimum of 15 years in jail if found guilty of murder without pre-planning.



Pistorius



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

UCLA running back Paul Perkins, right, celebrates his touchdown with quarterback Brett Hundley, left, and offensive lineman Caleb Benenoch during the first half of Saturday's win over Memphis.

No. 12 UCLA keeps winning, but still sliding in the polls

By DAN GREENSPAN
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Like so many once-trendy Hollywood nightclubs a short drive from campus, No. 12 UCLA has found out how quickly you can go from hot to not so cool.

The Bruins have dropped five spots in The Associated Press Top 25 over the last two weeks, with voters clearly less than impressed by closer-than-expected wins over Virginia and Memphis. UCLA was heavily favored in both games, a product of high expectations from the Bruins' first two seasons under coach Jim Mora.

Now that poll voters have begun recalibrating their feelings about the Bruins, Mora hopes his players will follow suit as they prepare for Saturday's trip to Texas.

"I don't want expectations to become a burden," Mora said Tuesday, adding that the Bruins will be "getting back to the roots of who we are. We're an underdog. That's who we are. We like it when people doubt us. That helps inspire us. I'm not saying it should, but it does. I just think we were tight. I think that we let the outside expectations become a little bit of a



No. 12 UCLA (2-0) vs. Texas (1-1)
AFN-Xtra
2 a.m. Sunday CET
9 a.m. Sunday JKT

burden for us."

For linebacker Myles Jack, there are more pressing concerns than where UCLA sits in the rankings.

"As long as we keep winning our games, that stuff will take care of itself," Jack said. "We have to take care of internally what is going on in that locker room."

What is going on right now is trying to figure out how to come up with a complete performance on both sides of the ball.

The Bruins' defense was opportunistic in the 28-20 win over the Cavaliers, returning two interceptions and one fumble for touchdowns to prop up a subpar performance from quarterback

Brett Hundley and the offense. Against the Tigers, the offense was picking up the slack for the UCLA defense in the 42-35 win.

UCLA gave up 469 yards of total offense, allowing Memphis quarterback Paxton Lynch to throw for a career-high 305 yards. A highly regarded front seven led by Jack finally produced its first sack of the season, but allowed 4.2 yards per rushing attempt.

And the Tigers' final drive, which ended at the Bruins 41 when time expired, was determined more by questionable clock management than any particular defensive adjustment or standout play by UCLA.

That doesn't exactly bode well for Pac-12 play, with games against high-powered Arizona State, Utah and Oregon to open the conference schedule, following the trip to face the struggling Longhorns at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"We can't wait to get things fixed," Mora said. "We have to fix things now. ... (Older) guys like us, we understand how fast life goes, and I don't think these guys always understand it, so it's a matter of making them understand it's important right now."

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Stoops, Oklahoma ready for another shot at SEC

By CLIFF BRUNT
The Associated Press

BOB STOOPS toned it down, at least for a day. Oklahoma's coach knew questions about his vocal disdain for the Southeastern Conference's perceived superiority were coming Monday as his fourth-ranked Sooners prepared for SEC member Tennessee. He shook most of them off, but when asked about the SEC's supposed belief that its athletes are a cut above, Stoops delivered the closest thing to a quip he would offer.

"I don't know," he said. "That hasn't been the case in our experience. Whoever we've played, that hasn't been much of a difference."

Oklahoma linebacker Geneo Grissom was more direct about his coach's thoughts.

"We all know coach Stoops' feelings about the SEC," Grissom said. "As his guys, we're 100 percent behind him. We're going to make sure we help him out there and make a statement in that aspect."

Stoops has criticized the SEC as far back as the spring of 2013, when he called some of the stories about the league's supremacy "propaganda." He had little to go on because his Sooners had lost three straight against SEC opponents and had just

'We all know coach Stoops' feelings about the SEC. As his guys, we're 100 percent behind him.'

Geneo Grissom
University of Oklahoma linebacker

been routed by Johnny Manziel and SEC member Texas A&M 41-13 in the Cotton Bowl.

Stoops got some ammunition when Oklahoma stunned Alabama 45-31 in the Sugar Bowl and took significant momentum into the off-season. This past summer, Stoops took exception to Alabama coach Nick Saban's comment that the Sugar Bowl was a consolation game. On Oklahoma's media day, when asked about his initial response to Saban, he replied: "Oh, get over it. Again, where am I lying?"

Even in weeks the Sooners don't play SEC teams, Stoops gets questions about the conference. A week ago, when asked if Oklahoma's close call against West Virginia was another example of the SEC struggling to stop a Big 12 spread offense, he wouldn't get into it.

"I'm not gonna sit here and talk about that," he said. "You guys are more than capable of doing that without me. I cause enough waves. This isn't the out-of-season where I cause waves."

While Stoops isn't necessarily a fan of the SEC's hype, he's fine with Tennessee and coach Butch Jones.

"We've got respect for the program," Stoops said. "The coach is getting in their second season now. They're a better football team than they were a year ago. They've recruited really well in the last couple of years. They're 2-0 and they've looked really good to this point."

The players know that the game is important because of the matchup of the conferences, but they also say they need to focus on themselves to be at their best so they can make the right impression.

"These are the games that most people are going to sit down and watch," Grissom said.

Tennessee (2-0)
at No. 4 Oklahoma (2-0)
AFN-Atlantic
2 a.m. Sunday CET
9 a.m. Sunday JKT



Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops doesn't believe the Southeastern Conference is head and shoulders above the other Power 5 conferences.

SUE OROCK/AP



Power matchups give Big 12 bigger tests

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops takes the approach that his fourth-ranked Sooners are getting ready to play a 10th conference game.

While Saturday's home date with Tennessee of the SEC won't count in the Big 12 standings, such games against the other power conferences surely will impact the perceptions of others—including the committee that will chose the four teams that will take part in the new College Football Playoff at the end of the season.

That makes this weekend an especially big one for the Big 12. Seven of the nine games are against teams from the other major leagues (SEC, ACC, Big Ten and Pac-12), with the opponents having a combined 13-1 record.

"Everybody's paying attention to your strength of schedule and things like that, so sure, it's always important that your league

'I think this is a league game for us. ... They're very capable of winning games and having success in the Big 12 Conference, and that's really what we expect.'

Mike Gundy
Oklahoma State coach on this week's foe, Texas-San Antonio

plays well." Stoops said Monday during the Big 12 coaches weekly teleconference.

No. 19 Kansas State, the only Big 12 team not playing this week, is preparing for a home game against defending SEC champion Auburn the following Thursday.



Texas, coming off a 41-7 home loss to BYU, plays Saturday night against No. 12 UCLA in Arlington, Texas, the site of the first CFP national championship game in January and where Oklahoma State had a hard-fought 37-31 loss in its season opener against defending

national champion Florida State.

"It's going to be a challenge," Texas coach Charlie Strong said. "Can we get this team and bounce them back from a humiliating, disappointing loss and get them to prevail and go play?"

Texas Tech is home against Arkansas, another SEC team, while Kansas plays at Duke, and West Virginia goes to Maryland a year after a 37-0 loss to the Terrapins.

Iowa State and TCU both play teams from the Big Ten, the league that took a hit with some resounding losses last weekend. The Cyclones play rival Iowa, and TCU is home against Minnesota.

"That's how the whole game goes, and that's the chances you take," TCU coach Gary Patterson said before referencing Michigan State's 46-27 loss at Oregon after the Spartans led by 12.

"If either one of those teams wins that game, it really springloads them into national championship-type situations, being part

of the four playoff teams, because that's a big win out of conference," Patterson said. "There's positives and negatives that come with all of it."

Kansas State's game at Auburn on Sept. 18 will be the last for the Big 12 against the other power leagues.

The Cowboys are home Saturday against Texas-San Antonio, the Larry Coker-coached team coming off a 26-23 loss to Pac-12 team Arizona.

"I think this is a league game for us," Cowboys coach Mike Gundy said Monday. "I told our team that, and mentioned to the press that we're in league play. They're very capable of winning games and having success in the Big 12 conference, and that's really what we expect. They very well could have won the game against Arizona. They missed a field goal late in the game, and had every opportunity to win the game, and the talent level was very similar."

College GameDay



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Player to watch

L.J. Scott RB | Louisville

Scott ran for 126 yards in Saturday night's game against FCS-level Murray State. He carried the ball 11 times and had a short touchdown in Louisville's 66-21 rout, helping the No. 21 Cardinals (2-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) amass 325 yards on the ground.

Most importantly, Scott showed he can add running back depth for Louisville as the Cardinals travel to Virginia (1-1, 0-0) on Saturday.

No. 21 Louisville at Virginia
6:30 p.m. Saturday, CET
1:30 a.m. Sunday, Japan/Korea
AFN-Xtra



TIM DOMINICK, THE STATE/MCT

South Carolina defensive tackle Gerald Dixon Jr. (92) blocks a field-goal attempt by East Carolina last week. After a 52-28 season-opening conference loss to Texas A&M, the No. 24 Gamecocks are looking to regain favor in the SEC with a chance to upset No. 6 Georgia on Saturday.

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
Conf.	All	W	L
Louisville.....	1	0	2
Florida St.....	0	0	2
NC State.....	0	0	2
Syracuse.....	0	1	0
Clemson.....	0	1	1
Wake Forest.....	0	1	1
Boston College.....	0	1	1
Coastal Division			
Conf.	All	W	L
Pittsburgh.....	1	0	2
Duke.....	0	0	2
Georgia Tech.....	0	0	2
North Carolina.....	0	0	2
Virginia Tech.....	0	0	2
Virginia.....	0	1	1
Miami.....	0	1	1

Game of the week: No. 21 Louisville at Virginia. The Cardinals (2-0, 1-0) beat Miami in their league debut and play their first ACC road game Saturday against Virginia (1-1). Bobby Petrino's Cards are in a favorable front half of the schedule before getting into the Atlantic Division's heavy hitters (at Clemson, home vs. No. 1 Florida State).

Inside the numbers: Saturday's Kansas-Duke game brings together basketball powers heading in different directions on the gridiron. Coming off a 10-win season, David Cutcliffe's Blue Devils can start 3-0 for the first time in 20 years. The Jayhawks are looking for their first road win in five years and stand at just 5-20 in three years under Charlie Weis.

Player to watch: Pittsburgh tailback James Conner. He's averaging an ACC-best 183.5 yards rushing per game and has run for at least 150 yards in three straight going back to last season's bowl game.

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	All	W	L
Rutgers.....	0	0	2
Penn State.....	0	0	2
Indiana.....	0	0	1
Maryland.....	0	0	2
Michigan.....	0	1	1
Michigan State.....	0	1	1
Ohio State.....	0	0	1
West			
Conf.	All	W	L
Nebraska.....	0	0	2
Illinois.....	0	0	2
Iowa.....	0	0	2
Minnesota.....	0	0	2
Purdue.....	0	0	1
Wisconsin.....	0	0	1
Northwestern.....	0	0	2

Game of the week: Penn State at Rutgers. This is the first Big Ten game for Rutgers, and Penn State is a fitting opponent. The schools are less than a four-hour drive apart, forming a triangle with Maryland in the Big Ten's eastern footprint that will bring increased recruiting competition along the seaboard.

Inside the numbers: The Big Ten has the worst nonconference (20-7) mark of the five major leagues. ... Northwestern, joining Michigan State and Wisconsin on the idle list this week, has lost nine of its last 10 games. ... Penn State's Sam Ficken (4-for-4) is the only perfect field-goal kicker left with more than two attempts.

Player to watch: Illinois QB Wes Lunt. The sophomore completed 35 of 50 passes for 456 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Illini's comeback victory over Western Kentucky. Lunt's yardage total was the fourth-highest in program history.

Big 12			
Conf.	All	W	L
Kansas State.....	1	0	2
Oklahoma.....	0	0	2
TCU.....	0	0	1
Baylor.....	0	0	2
Texas Tech.....	0	0	2
Kansas.....	0	0	1
Oklahoma State.....	0	0	1
Texas.....	0	0	1
West Virginia.....	0	0	1
Iowa State.....	0	1	0

Game of the week: Arkansas at Texas Tech. A matchup of former Southwest Conference rivals playing for the first time since 1991, the Razorbacks' last SWC season before moving to the SEC. "More than anything, just a former Southwest Conference opponent in the big build-up here," Red Raiders coach Kliff Kingsbury said when asked about hosting an SEC team.

Inside the numbers: Seven of the nine Big 12 games this week are against other power conferences and teams with a combined 13-1 record. Texas and UCLA have both won three games in their series filled with not-so-close scores. None of the last five games have been closer than 18 points, including a 66-3 UCLA win in 1997. **Player to watch:** Iowa State receiver Jarvis West. He became only the third FBS or FCS player since 1998 to have a TD catch, TD pass and punt return for a TD in the same game.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	All	W	L
California.....	0	0	2
Washington.....	0	0	2
Oregon.....	0	0	2
Oregon State.....	0	0	2
Washington State.....	0	0	2
Stanford.....	0	1	1
South			
Conf.	All	W	L
USC.....	1	0	2
Arizona.....	0	0	2
Utah.....	0	0	2
Arizona State.....	0	0	2
UCLA.....	0	0	2
Wisconsin.....	0	0	2
Colorado.....	0	0	1

Game of the week: Army at No. 15 Stanford. Stanford tries to regroup from a frustrating 13-10 home loss to Southern California last week before a series of difficult Pac-12 road games. Army aims to start 2-0 under new coach Jeff Monken. Army's tricky triple-option offense gave Stanford trouble during the first half of the Cardinal's 34-20 win at West Point last season. Stanford's reconstructed defense allowed 156 yards rushing to USC last week.

Inside the numbers: It's still early and some of the opponents haven't exactly been stellar, but the Pac-12 has six teams averaging over 200 yards rushing per game. **Player to watch:** D.J. Foster, Arizona State. He moved into the featured-back role late last season and has flourished this season, rushing for a career-best 216 yards against New Mexico last weekend.

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Air Force
at Georgia State
Last week: Lost 17-13 at Wyoming
Next game: vs. Boise State, Sept. 27

Army
at No. 15 Stanford
Last week: Did not play
Next game: At Wake Forest, Sept. 20

Navy
at Texas State
Last week: Beat Temple, 31-24
Next game: vs. Rutgers, Sept. 20

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Thursday's game	
No. 25 BYU vs. Houston	
Friday's game	
No. 8 Baylor at Buffalo	
Saturday's games	
No. 2 Oregon vs. Wyoming	
No. 3 Alabama vs. Southern Miss.	
No. 4 Oklahoma vs. Tennessee	
No. 6 Georgia at No. 24 South Carolina	
No. 9 Southern Cal at Boston College	
No. 10 LSU vs. Louisiana-Monroe	
No. 11 Notre Dame vs. Purdue at Indianapolis	
No. 12 UCLA vs. Texas at Arlington, Texas	
No. 14 Mississippi vs. Louisiana	
No. 15 Stanford vs. Army	
No. 16 Arizona State at Colorado	
No. 17 Virginia Tech vs. East Carolina	
No. 20 Missouri vs. UCF	
No. 21 Louisville at Virginia	
No. 22 Ohio State vs. Kent State	

Game of the week: No. 6 Georgia at No. 24 South Carolina. Two of the nation's elite running backs — Todd Gurley and Mike Davis — meet in Columbia on Saturday. The Bulldogs looked impressive during their opening week victory over Clemson and had last weekend off to prepare. The Gamecocks were embarrassed in their season-opening loss to Texas A&M, but bounced back with a 33-23 victory against East Carolina and could jump right back into the league-title conversation with a big home win. **Inside the numbers:** Florida has beaten Kentucky 27 consecutive times, which represents the longest active winning streak over a major opponent in an annual series. **Player to watch:** Alabama's Amari Cooper. He has been the most prolific receiver in the nation through the first two weeks. Cooper leads all FBS players in receptions (25) and receiving yards (319).

AUTO RACING

CHASE FOR THE SPRINT CUP DRIVER CAPSULES

1

Brad Keselowski

No. 2 Ford
2,012 points

How he qualified: Wins at Las Vegas, Kentucky, Loudon and Richmond (September).

Chase history: Two previous appearances; 2012 champion.

The story: The 2012 champion knows what it takes to win the title.



2

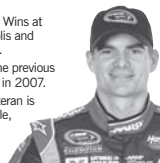
Jeff Gordon

No. 24 Chevrolet
2,009 points

How he qualified: Wins at Kansas, Indianapolis and Michigan (August).

Chase history: Nine previous appearances; 2nd in 2007.

The story: The veteran is seeking his fifth title, but first under the Chase format.



3

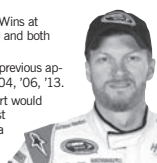
Dale Earnhardt Jr.

No. 88 Chevrolet
2,009 points

How he qualified: Wins at Daytona (February) and both Pocono races.

Chase history: Six previous appearances; 5th in '04, '06, '13.

The story: The sport would love to see the most popular driver win a championship.



4

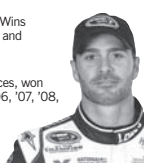
Jimmie Johnson

No. 48 Chevrolet
2,009 points

How he qualified: Wins at Charlotte, Dover and Michigan (June).

Chase history: 10 previous appearances, won championship in '06, '07, '08, '09, '10 and '13.

The story: A favorite again.



5

Joey Logano

No. 22 Ford
2,009 points

How he qualified: Three wins, at Texas, Richmond (April) and Bristol (August).

Chase history: One previous appearance (8th in 2013).

The story: Does the 24-year-old have the experience and the mindset to win?



6

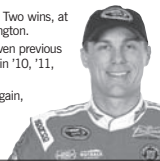
Kevin Harvick

No. 4 Chevrolet
2,006 points

How he qualified: Two wins, at Phoenix and Darlington.

Chase history: Seven previous appearances; 3rd in '10, '11, '13.

The story: Once again, Harvick has put himself in position to win it all.



7

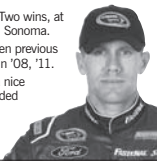
Carl Edwards

No. 99 Ford
2,006 points

How he qualified: Two wins, at Bristol (March) and Sonoma.

Chase history: Seven previous appearances; 2nd in '08, '11.

The story: It'd be a nice parting gift if he ended his Roush Fenway Racing days with a championship.



8

Kyle Busch

No. 18 Toyota
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Fontana.

Chase history: Six previous appearances; 4th in 2013.

The story: Always a threat. If he gets going at the right time, he could win his first title.



9

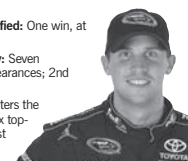
Denny Hamlin

No. 11 Toyota
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Talladega.

Chase history: Seven previous appearances; 2nd in '10.

The story: Enters the Chase with six top-10s in his past nine races.



10

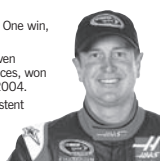
Kurt Busch

No. 41 Chevrolet
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Martinsville.

Chase history: Seven previous appearances, won championship in 2004.

The story: Inconsistent much of the year, but has a good track record.



11

Kasey Kahne

No. 5 Chevrolet
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Atlanta.

Chase history: Four previous appearances; 4th in 2012.

The story: With his recent victory, he's getting hot at the right time to make a push for his first championship.



12

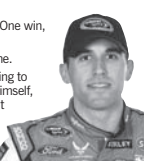
Aric Almirola

No. 43 Ford
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Daytona (July).

Chase history: None.

The story: He's trying to make a name for himself, but his '14 highlight is likely going to be his first career win.



13

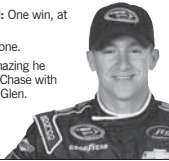
AJ Allmendinger

No. 47 Chevrolet
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Watkins Glen.

Chase history: None.

The story: It's amazing he simply made the Chase with a win at Watkins Glen. Expect him to be among the early cuts.



14

Matt Kenseth

No. 20 Toyota
2,000 points

How he qualified: Highest point total among drivers to not win a race.

Chase history: Nine previous appearances; 2nd in '06, '13.

The story: He's been consistent this year; things might fall into place for him.



15

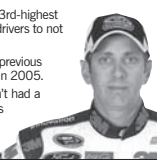
Greg Biffle

No. 16 Ford
2,000 points

How he qualified: 3rd-highest point total among drivers to not win a race.

Chase history: Six previous appearances; 2nd in 2005.

The story: He hasn't had a season that inspires faith he'll be a contender.



16

Ryan Newman

No. 31 Chevrolet
2,000 points

How he qualified: 2nd-highest point total among drivers to not win a race.

Chase history: Five previous appearances; 6th in 2005.

The story: It's hard to see him contending for the title.



SOURCES: nascar.com; nascarmedia.com; The Associated Press; Fort Worth Star-Telegram

THE FINAL 10 RACES

Sept. 14

MyAriFibStory.
Race for Heroes
Joliet, Ill.

Sept. 21

Sylvania 300
Loudon, N.H.

Sept. 28

AAA 400
Dover, Del.

Oct. 5

Hollywood
Casino 400
Kansas City, Kan.

Oct. 11

Bank of America
500
Concord, N.C.

Oct. 19

GEICO 500
Talladega, Ala.

Oct. 26

Goody's
Headache Relief
Shot 500
Ridgeway, Va.

Nov. 2

AAA Texas 500
Fort Worth,
Texas

Nov. 9

Quicken Loans
Race for Heroes
500
Avondale, Ariz.

Nov. 16

Ford EcoBoost
400
Homestead, Fla.

AUTO RACING



STEVE HELLER/AP

Hendricks Motorsports drivers Jeff Gordon, left, led the NASCAR Sprint Cup points standings for most of the year and teamed with Jimmie Johnson, right, and Dale Earnhardt Jr., to win nine of 26 races this season. Johnson has won Sprint Cup championships while Gordon has won four.

Elimination time begins

Hendrick, Penske and Harvick gearing up for Chase

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — In the season-opening Daytona 500 guaranteed Dale Earnhardt Jr. a spot in NASCAR's title race. It also allowed his Hendrick Motorsports team to live in the moment on the race track and not get hung up on results.

The 10-race Chase for the Sprint Cup championship is here and the laissez-faire attitude must go. A loaded championship field means there's little room for error in NASCAR's new elimination format.

"Well, we've been sort of on a vacation for 20 weeks. It's time to get to it," Earnhardt said after the "regular-season" finale at Richmond. "But as a company, I don't think we could be any more prepared than we are."

Hendrick Motorsports got all four of its cars into the Chase. They'll go head-to-head with Team Penske, which has matched Hendrick all season in performance. But not to be overlooked is Kevin Harvick, who has been one of the strongest cars in the field for 26 weeks. Harvick has pit crew issues that must be solved or he'll have his hands full with the Hendrick and Penske drivers.

Here's a look at the top teams in the 16-driver Chase field:

Hendrick Motorsports

Jeff Gordon led the points race most of the year and combined with Earnhardt and defending champion Jimmie Johnson for

nine victories in 26 races. All three drivers are three-time winners this season, and all have performed at a much higher level than Kahne, who was in danger of not even making the Chase before his win at Atlanta.

Gordon, who won his fourth title in 2001, is having a career resurgence and Earnhardt is desperately seeking his first Cup title. But Johnson wants ring No. 7, which would tie him with Hall of Famers Richard Petty and the late Dale Earnhardt for most in history.

Johnson had one of his typical summer swoons — he had only one top-10 finish in a six-week span — before snapping out of it in early August. He reeled off four consecutive top-10s the last month, but had a bout of dehydration following Saturday night's race that left the triathlete puzzled.

Earnhardt and Johnson are expected to be contenders when the Chase opens Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway. But it remains to be seen if one of the Hendrick drivers can separate himself from his teammates.

Team Penske

Brad Keselowski entered this season determined to prove he was not a one-year wonder in 2012 when he won his championship. He failed to make the Chase last season and was ineligible to defend his title, but came back this year to earn the top seed in the field.

He picked up his series-best fourth win of the year Saturday night at Richmond, where he humiliated the field by leading all but 17 of the 400 laps. Now Keselowski and teammate Joey Logano, a three-race winner this year, are ready to go toe-to-toe with the Hendrick heavyweights.

"He was down maybe last year, but came back this season. He's been outstanding," team owner Roger Penske said of Keselowski. "I give him a lot of credit because he's pushing the team. He and Joey together, they're working with each other, trying to find the speed in the cars."

Kevin Harvick

He'll be joined in the Chase by Stewart-Haas Racing teammate Kurt Busch, but Harvick has been the far superior driver at SHR this season.

Although he has only two wins to show for his speed, he'd led 1,186 laps. Johnson believes Harvick "should have north of eight wins" this season. One of the most glaring hiccups in his program is his pit crew, which is not at the same level as the other top contenders.

Harvick has lost valuable spots on pit road repeatedly this year and said SHR should fix that.

"Hopefully they have a plan as to what they think they need to do in the shop with the two teams in the Chase, but that's not my department," Harvick said.

SHR can borrow from the pit crews of Danica Patrick or team co-owner Tony Stewart if that would help Harvick. Stewart might not object because he very much wants to see one of his cars win the championship. But Stewart is also winless on the season, and has never gone a year without a win, so there could be an emphasis on getting him into Victory Lane in the final 10 races.

"I think our cars are as fast as they need to be. The guys do a great job of bringing fast cars every week," he said. "It's just one mistake after another every week on pit road."

Around the tracks

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

This week: Myafibstory.com 400 at Joliet, Ill.

Track: Chicagoland Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Distance: 400.5 miles, 267 laps. **TV:** AFN-Xtra, 8 p.m. Sunday Central European Time; 3 p.m. Monday Japan and Korea Time.

Last year: Matt Kenseth won the Chase opener for the sixth of his seven 2013 victories.

Last week: Brad Keselowski won the regular-season finale at Richmond for his series-leading fourth victory of the year and the top spot in the Chase for the Championship.

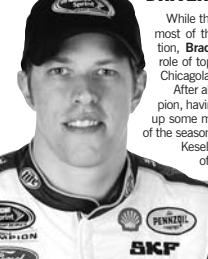
Next race: Sylvania 300, Sept. 21, New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H.

Online: nascar.com

POINTS STANDINGS

1. Brad Keselowski	2,012
2. Jeff Gordon	2,009
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2,009
4. Jimmie Johnson	2,009
5. Joey Logano	2,009
6. Kevin Harvick	2,006
7. Carl Edwards	2,006
8. Kyle Busch	2,003
9. Denny Hamlin	2,003
10. Kurt Busch	2,003
11. Kasey Kahne	2,003
12. Aric Almirola	2,003
13. AJ Allmendinger	2,003
14. Matt Kenseth	2,000
15. Greg Biffle	2,000
16. Ryan Newman	2,000
17. Clint Bowyer	746
18. Kyle Larson	737
19. Jamie McMurray	706
20. Paul Menard	701

DRIVER TO WATCH



While the Hendrick Motorsports boys are grabbing most of the pre-Chase for the Championship attention, Brad Keselowski has quietly moved into the role of top seed when the Chase begins Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway.

After all, Keselowski is a former Sprint Cup champion, having cruised to the title in 2012 and has built up some momentum heading into the final 10 races of the season.

Keselowski has four victories this year, the most of any driver in the field, including last week in the regular-season finale at Richmond, Va.

He dominated the race, leading all but 17 of the 400 laps in taking the checkered flag to wrap up the No. 1 seed.

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Jimmy John's Freaky Fast 300 at Joliet, Ill.

Track: Chicagoland Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Distance: 300 miles, 200 laps. **TV:** AFN-Xtra, delayed, 5:30 a.m. Sunday CET; 12:30 p.m. Sunday JKT

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the 10th of his 12 2013 series victories.

Last week: Busch led all 250 laps at Richmond for his fourth victory of the year and 67th career series win.

Next race: VisitMyrtleBeach.com 300, Sept. 20, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, Ky.

Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS SERIES

This week: Lucas Oil 225 at Joliet, Ill.

Track: Chicagoland Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Distance: 225 miles, 150 laps. **Last year:** Kyle Busch raced to fourth of his five 2013 series victories.

Last race: Ryan Blaney won the road race in Bowmanville, Ontario, on Aug. 31, for his first victory of the season.

Next race: UNOH 175, Sept. 20, New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Singapore Grand Prix, Sept. 21, Marina Bay Street Circuit, Singapore.

Last week: Lewis Hamilton won the Italian Grand Prix for his sixth win of the year. He's second in the season standings, 22 points behind Nico Rosberg.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: Carolina Nationals at Concord, N.C.

Track: zMAX Dragway.

Last year: Robert Hight topped the Funny Car field in the Countdown opener. Morgan Lucas won in Top Fuel. Greg Coughlin in Pro Stock and Andrew Hines in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last event: Alexis DeJoria defeated John Force in the U.S. Nationals on Sept. 1 in Clermont, Ind., to become the first female Funny Car driver to win three times in a season. Richie Crump won the Top Fuel category final in the regular-season finale. Shane Gray topped the Pro Stock field and Eddie Krawiec won the Pro Stock Motorcycle event.

Next event: Texas NHRA Fall Nationals, Sept. 19-21, Texas Motorplex, Ennis, Texas.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER RACES

ARCA RACING SERIES: ARCA Fall Classic, Saturday, Salem Speedway, Salem, Ind.

Online: arcaracing.com

WORLD OF OUTLAWS: Sprint Car: Friday, Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, Iowa; Saturday, Deer Creek Speedway, Spring Valley, Minn. Late Model: Thursday, LaSalle Speedway, LaSalle, Ill.; Friday, Saturday, Berlin Raceway, Marne, Mich. Super DirtCar: Saturday, Mohawk International Raceway, Akwesasne, N.Y.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

U.S. AUTO RACING CLUB: Sprint Car: Saturday, Tri-State Speedway, Haubstadt, Ind.

Online: usacracing.com

NFL

NFL orders investigation

Move comes after source says tape was sent in April

By BARRY WILNER AND ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL called in a former FBI director to examine how it pursued and handled evidence in the Ray Rice domestic violence case as pressure increased for the league to be more transparent about its original investigation.

The move late Wednesday came hours after The Associated Press reported that a law enforcement officer said he sent an NFL executive video in April that showed Rice striking his then-fiancee at a casino. Goodell has maintained that no one in the NFL saw the video until it was released by TMZ Sports Monday.

Women's organizations, members of Congress and players have called for more detail about the NFL's handling of the Rice case. The criticism intensified after the law enforcement official's account.

Goodell turned to Robert S. Mueller III, who was the director of the FBI for a 12-year term, to lead the inquiry. The probe will be overseen by owners John Mara of the New York Giants and Art Rooney of the Pittsburgh Steelers, two of Goodell's strongest supporters. Both are members of key NFL committees and have

closely advised Goodell throughout his tenure.

The NFL called the probe independent, and did not discuss how the owners will work with Mueller. But there could be an appearance of conflict: Mara has already indicated he doesn't think Goodell's job should be in jeopardy.

"My understanding is that the league and the Ravens made repeated requests to obtain the video of the Ray Rice incident and they were denied each time," Mara said a few hours before the AP story broke. "The notion that the league should have gone around law enforcement to obtain the video is, in my opinion, misguided, as is the notion that the commissioner's job is now in jeopardy."

The law enforcement official who described sending the video to the NFL spoke on condition of anonymity because an investigation is ongoing. He said he sent the tape five months ago, and played a 12-second voicemail from an NFL office number on April 9 confirming the video arrived. A female voice expresses thanks and says: "You're right. It's terrible."

The official says he had no further communication with any NFL employee and can't confirm anyone watched the video. The person said he was unauthorized to release the video but shared it

unsolicited, because he wanted the NFL to have it before deciding on Rice's punishment.

The NFL has said it asked for the video from law enforcement, but was denied.

The video shows Ravens running back Rice and Janay Palmer — now Janay Rice — shouting obscenities at each other, and she appears to spit at Rice right before he throws a brutal punch.

Rice had been charged with felony aggravated assault, but in May he was accepted into a pre-trial intervention program that allowed him to avoid jail time.

That could lead to the charge being purged from his record. He was cut from the Ravens and suspended by the league indefinitely on Monday after TMZ posted video of the punch.

Saints quarterback Drew Brees, a former member of the players' union executive committee, questioned the league's accountability. Brees compared it to the Saints' bounty program in which players, coaches and the general manager were suspended and the organization was fined.

"We're all held accountable for our actions as players," he said. "Certainly every owner should be held accountable for their actions, the commissioner should be held accountable for his actions."



JEFF SINGER, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Saints fans express their opinion of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell during a 2012 game. Goodell, now under scrutiny for his handling of the Ray Rice case, has already had his share of controversy — including the Saints' Bountygate scandal.

Scandal nothing new for Goodell

By BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Ray Rice story is not the first controversy Roger Goodell has faced during his eight-year tenure as NFL commissioner. Here's a look at some of them:

Ray Rice: Goodell suspended the Ravens running back for two games, then made it indefinite after video of Rice punching his then-fiancee (now wife) in an elevator was released Monday. Goodell said to his knowledge, no one at the league office had seen the video before Monday. But a law enforcement official told the AP he sent the video to the league five months ago, and played a voice mail from an NFL office number confirming it was received.

Saints bounties: A lengthy league investigation uncovered a three-year bounty program in which New Orleans Saints players were paid bonuses for "cart-offs" and "knockouts." Goodell suspended coach Sean Payton for a season; former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams — the overseer of the program — indefinitely; general manager Mickey Loomis for eight games; and assistant coach Joe Vitt six games. He also initially suspended defensive players Jon Vilma (for the season), Anthony Hargrove (8 games), Will Smith (4) and Scott Fujita (3). Goodell later reduced suspensions for Hargrove and Fujita, but all player suspensions were overturned by former Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who was appointed to preside over appeals. The Saints also were fined \$500,000 and stripped of second-round picks in 2012 and 2013.

Patriots spy on Jets: New England's Bill Belichick was fined \$500,000 by Goodell, the largest for any coach, on Sept. 13, 2007 for spying on an opponent's defense signals. A Patriots assistant coach had taken video of the New York Jets' sideline and

signals. Goodell also fined the franchise \$250,000 and a 2008 first-round draft pick.

Bullying: After offensive lineman Jonathan Martin left the Dolphins in October 2013 and complained about bullying tactics, Goodell commissioned an investigation at the behest of team owner Stephen Ross. Miami suspended Richie Incognito for the remainder of the 2013 season, a move supported by the league. Investigator Ted Wells concluded that offensive linemen John Jerry and Mike Pouncey joined Incognito in harassing Martin, and position coach Jim Turner participated in the taunting of a second player, Andrew McDonald, now with the Carolina Panthers.

Players locked out: The owners locked out the players in March 2011 because a new collective bargaining agreement had not been reached. Although the draft was staged during that time, no other offseason programs were held. Negotiations dragged into July before a 10-year CBA was reached. Many fans blamed "greedy owners" and Goodell for the lockout. The lock-out cost the league only one preseason game being canceled.

Officials locked out: Before the 2012 season, the league again locked out employees: game officials. The replacements, with little football officiating experience, performed decently in preseason games, but struggled mightily during the regular season. In the Monday night game in Week 3, a last-gasp pass into the end zone appeared to be a clear interception, but instead was ruled a game-winning TD for Seattle over Green Bay. Three days later, the regular officials were back on the field. Since then, several executives under Goodell who dealt with officiating either left the NFL or moved to different jobs.

Protecting shield, or himself?

By JIM LITKE

The Associated Press

Roger Goodell likes to boast about "protecting the shield." For all the high-minded talk, let's see how good he is at covering his butt.

Sooner or later, the commissioner will have to explain how he missed a DVD copy of the inside-elevator video that The Associated Press reported had arrived at the NFL league offices five months ago. While he's at it, maybe Goodell can also tell the truth about why he went easy on Ray Rice the first time. After all, like the rest of us, he didn't need to see actual footage of the vicious punch Rice threw to figure out how Janay Palmer, then his fiancee, wound up unconscious on the floor in the first video.

But when he was asked that question in an interview aired Tuesday on "CBS This Morning" Goodell effectively doubled down on his "see-no-evil" — "or at least not enough of it" — defense to explain why he initially suspended Rice for just two games.

"When we met with Ray Rice and his representatives, it was ambiguous about what actually happened," Goodell replied.

"But what was ambiguous," came the sharp follow-up, "about her laying unconscious on the floor, being dragged out by her feet?"

"There was nothing ambiguous about that," Goodell said, adding that they didn't know the details and couldn't get the elevator video.

In most instances, the NFL's security arm compiles dossiers so thorough they rival the work being done at the Department of Homeland Security. And the league promised yet another one, walking back it's "We will look into it" response to the AP story and announcing late Wednesday that former FBI director Robert Mueller will head an investigation into how the evidence in the Rice case was handled.

No need yet on when it will be completed, but we're certain of this much already: There's no way

Goodell watched the video of the punch before Monday. He's too smart to lie about that.

The real reasons he didn't get his hands on the video, or learn the details of what went on inside the elevator, most of which was described accurately in a police report. He was either willfully ignorant or just plain incompetent, and neither bores well for his future.

And while we're at it, one more thing. League higher-ups knew the AP was asking about a copy of the video being sent to an NFL executive. Yet Goodell went ahead with his appearance on CBS, repeated his tale of plausible deniability and didn't stop there.

"People expect a lot from the NFL. We accept that... We embrace that," he said. "That's our opportunity to make a difference, not just in the NFL, but in society in general."

That kind of arrogance is breathtaking. It's also a recurring theme with Goodell.

He's been great for business, but bad at transparency. He didn't get serious about concussions until improving science and a pack of lawyers forced his hand. He bungled the Saints' "Bountygate" fiasco so badly, the league had to turn to Paul Tagliabue, Goodell's predecessor, to bail him out. When the Patriots got caught stealing defensive signals from the Jets in 2007 in what became known as "Spygate," he handed out stiff penalties and then unilaterally ordered the evidence destroyed.

There's too much blood in the water this time, though, for Goodell to get away without a full review of the facts.

Goodell has taken plenty of the credit for the quality of the product the NFL puts on the field any given Sunday. Now he's got to answer a few tough questions about how some of it got there.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org

NFL

Scoreboard

NFL injury report

NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (OUT = Definitely will not play; DNP = Did not practice; LIMITED = Limited participation in practice; FULL = Full participation in practice):

MIAMI DOLPHINS at BUFFALO BILLS — **DOLPHINS:** OUT: DE Terrence Feeley (knee), G Mike Pouncey (hip), LB Jordan Tripp (chest), DNP: LB Chris McCall (illness), LB Koa Misi (ankle), DT Randy Sparks (toe), T Billy Turner (foot), LIMITED: S Walt Aikens (hand), TE Charles Clay (knee), RB Knowshon Moreno (shoulder), DE Derrick Shelby (knee), TE Dion Sims (neck), WR Mike Wallace (hamstring), LB Philip Wheeler (thumb), **BILLS:** DNP: LB Keith Rivers (groin), TE Lee Smith (toe), LIMITED: S Jonathan McKee (neck), S Aaron Williams (head), FULL: CB Stephen Gilmore (groin), WR Sammy Watkins (ribs).

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS at WASHINGTON REDSKINS — **JAGUARS:** DNP: S Johnathan Cyprien (concussion), RB Toby Gerhart (ankle), TE Clay Harbor (calf), G Austin Pasztor (hand), LIMITED: CB Dwayne Gratz (ankle), RB Storm Johnson (ankle), WR Marquise Lee (hamstring), TE Marcedes Lewis (knee), WR Cecil Shorts III (hamstring), **REDSKINS:** DNP: DE Kedric Golston (groin), LB Alexen Jordan (knee), CB Tracy Porter (hamstring), TE Jordan Reed (hamstring), LIMITED: S Duke Ihenacho (ankle), LB Brian Orakpo (ankle), T Trent Williams (shoulder), FULL: T Tyler Polumbus (ankle).

DALLAS COWBOYS at TENNESSEE TITANS — **COWBOYS:** DNP: LB Justin Durant (groin), DE Anthony Spencer (knee), S C.J. Spillman (groin), T Darion Weems (shoulder), LIMITED: DE George Selvie (shoulder), FULL: G Zack Martin (foot), DT Terrell McClain (ankle), QB Tony Romo (back), WR Terence Williams (back), **TITANS:** OUT: LB Zach Brown (shoulder), LIMITED: WR Justin Hunter (knee), DT Mike Martin (hamstring), S George Wilson (foot), FULL: QB Charlie Whitehurst (right finger).

ARIZONA CARDINALS at NEW YORK GIANTS — **CARDINALS:** No Data Reported, **GIANTS:** DNP: WR Odell Beckham Jr. (hamstring), T Jake Matthews (lower back), DT Cullen Jenkins (hip), LB Devon Kennard (hamstring), DT Markus Kuhn (ankle), P Steve Weatherford (left ankle), LIMITED: LB Jon Beason (foot), T Charles Brown (shoulder).

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS at MINNESOTA VIKINGS — **PATRIOTS:** LIMITED: DE Michael Buchanan (ankle), E Rob Gronkowski (knee), DT Chris Johnson (ankle), DT Seauler Siliga (hand), C Ryan Wendell (knee), **VIKINGS:** DNP: DT Sharrif Floyd (shoulder), G Xavier Rhodes (groin), LB Brandon Watts (knee), LIMITED: T Mike Harris (shoulder), G Charlie Johnson (ankle), RB Josh Hill (ankle), LB Michael Mautz (foot), FULL: CB Jabari Price (hamstring).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS at CLEVELAND BROWNS — **SAINTS:** DNP: S Marcus Ball (hamstring), RB Erik Irgon (ankle), LIMITED: CB Keenan Lewis (knee), LB Curtis Lofton (shoulder), WR Kerry Stills (quadiceps), **BROWNS:** OUT: RB Rex Toge (knee), DNP: TE Jordan Cameron (shoulder), DE John Hughes (hamstring), G Barkevious Bonk (ankle), T Joe Thomas (not injured lately), LIMITED: DE Desmond Bryant (wrist), G Paul McQuistan (ankle).

ATLANTA FALCONS at CINCINNATI BENGALS — **FALCONS:** DNP: T Jake Matthews (ankle), LIMITED: WR Roddy White (knee), **BENGALS:** OUT: WR Marvin Jones (foot), DNP: DT Geno Atkins (feet), LB Vontaze Duffett (concussion), RB Rex Burkhead (knee), G Mike Pollak (knee), LB Sean Porter (hamstring), LIMITED: DE Carlos Dunlap (hamstring), WR A.J. Green (foot), T Andre Smith (shoulder), FULL: CB Darqueze Rogers (hip), DT Margus Hunt (ribs), WR James Wright (concussion).

DETROIT LIONS at CAROLINA PANTHERS — **LIONS:** DNP: S Don Carey (hamstring), T Corey Hilliard (foot), T Ladrrian Waddle (calf), LIMITED: RB Reggie Bush (knee), S James Iredigbo (neck), TE Brandon Pettigrew (foot), **PANTHERS:** DNP: LB Jason Williams (hip), FULL: CB Carynton (ribs).

ST. LOUIS RAMS at TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — **RAMS:** DNP: QB Sam Hill (thigh), QB Matt Leininger (knee), C Barrett Jones (back), DE Chris Long (ankle), S Searious Jayner (lower back), **BUCCANERS:** DNP: DE Michael Johnson (ankle), G Logan Mankins (knee), RB Doug Martin (knee), CB Rashaun Melvin (ankle), TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins (ankle), LIMITED: DE Adrian Clayborn (elbow), T Demar Dotson (hamstring), DE William Gholston (shoulder), S Bradley McDougald (knee), FULL: DE DeQuan Bowers (abdomen).

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS at SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — **SEAHAWKS:** No Data Reported, **CHARGERS:** DNP: S Jahiell Adae (hamstring), CB Chris Davis (ankle), LIMITED: T D.J. Fluker (knee, ankle), TE Antonio Gates (hamstring), LB Melvin Ingram (hamstring), FULL: WR Keenan Allen (ribs), DT Sean Lissimore (ankle), DE Corey Luegt (ankle).

HOUSTON TEXANS at OAKLAND RAIDERS — **TEXANS:** DNP: LB Jadeveon Clowney (knee), TE C.C. Fiedorowicz (foot), S Shiloh Keo (calf), LIMITED: TE Garrett Graham (back), WR Andre Johnson (ankle), CB Jonathan Joseph (foot), FULL: CB A.J. Bouye (shoulder), T Tyson Clayton (ankle), G Mike Gushing (ankle), RB Arian Foster (ribs), DE Tim Janning (ankle), CB Elbert Mack (foot), LB Mike Mohamed (quadiceps), C Chris Myers (foot), T Derek Newton (elbow), JB Jay Proch (hand), G Xavier Su'a-Filo (back), DE J.J. Watt (ankle), **RAIDERS:** DNP: RB Maurice Jones-Drew (hand), CB Talwan Jones (foot), LB Rolanda Mays (illness), LIMITED: CB Channing Modkwa (knee), LB Nick Ross (concussion).

NEW YORK JETS at GREEN BAY PACKERS — **JETS:** DNP: S Josh Bush (quadiceps), TE Jeff Cumberland (ankle, rib), LIMITED: TE Matt Foster (ankle), LIMITED: G Willie Colon (calf), DE Ikekeme Eneke (ankle), CB Dee Milliner (ankle), **PACKERS:** DNP: LB Eric Kush (quadiceps), DE Sam Donaldson (concussion), LIMITED: TE Brandon Bostick (ribcage), T Bryan Bulaga (knee), FULL: CB Desmond Goodson (concussion).

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS at DENVER BRONCOS — **CHIEFS:** DNP: G Jeff Allen (elbow), RB De'Anthony Meyer (ankle), LIMITED: DE Justin Houston (knee), FULL: S Husain Abdullah (quadiceps), S Eric Decker (ankle), DE Justin Houston (knee), CB Marcus Cooper (ankle), WR Frankie Hammond Jr. (shoulder), WR Junior Hemingway (hip), CB Eric Kush (quadiceps), DE Sam Donaldson (concussion), WR Albert Wilson (ankle), **BRONCOS:** DNP: S Da'Quan Bowers (ankle), G Matt Scharf (ankle), LIMITED: Danny Trevathan (knee), FULL: T Ryan Clady (foot), LB Brandon Marshall (ankle), LB Nate Irving (knee), C Manny Ramirez (back), DE DeMarcus Ware (thigh), G Matt Scharf (ankle).

CHICAGO BEARS at SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — **BEARS:** DNP: QB David Fales (right shoulder), RB Tim Lincecum (thigh), C Ryan Kujawa (ankle), WR Mike Williams (ankle), WR Alshon Jeffery (hamstring), WR Brandon Marshall (ankle), G Matt Scharf (ankle), LIMITED: WR Josh Morgan (groin), CB Charles Tillman (not injured lately), **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES at INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — No Data Reported.



DAVE MARTIN/AP

Carolina defensive end Greg Hardy has been convicted of two counts of domestic violence and is playing while he appeals.

Two more under scrutiny

Hardy, McDonald also facing domestic violence issues

BY STEVE REED

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Carolina Panthers Pro Bowl defensive end Greg Hardy has been convicted on two counts of domestic violence and is still playing. Ray McDonald of the San Francisco 49ers also remains active while he is being investigated for abuse allegations.

The Panthers and 49ers have not publicly discussed details of their investigations, saying only that they are following the NFL's lead in waiting for the legal process to run its course.

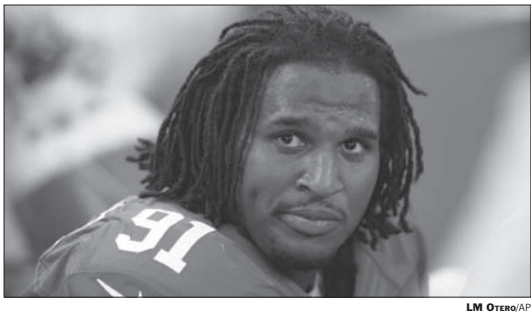
The cases have similarities to that of Ray Rice, who was released this week by the Baltimore Ravens and suspended indefinitely by the league after an explicit video surfaced of him hitting his then-fiancée.

A law enforcement official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that he sent a copy of the video to the league in April.

The NFL is under scrutiny for its wait-and-see approach in domestic violence cases like Hardy's.

Judy Harris Kluger, a former New York City judge and now executive director of Sanctuary for Families, is anxious to see how the league handles the two pending cases.

"I think the test for the NFL will be what they do with the other people who are



LM OTERO/AP

San Francisco's Ray McDonald was arrested on suspicion of domestic violence but has been charged. The matter is being investigated by the San Jose police department.

charged now," Kluger said. "And I don't imagine there's a videotape of that. What else did the NFL think happened in that elevator? So yes, it's a very graphic depiction, and they took the action they took now. But I think all of us will be looking to see what they and other organizations do going forward."

While McDonald has not been charged, Hardy has been convicted on two counts of domestic violence. He has appealed and a hearing is scheduled for Nov. 17.

Hardy, one of the stalwarts on the Panthers' stout defense, is making \$13.1 million this season as the team's franchise player. He had four tackles and one sack in Carolina's season-opening victory.

Though he has already been found guilty, the league is sticking by its policy to wait until the appeal has been heard before making any decision on a possible suspension.

"The Hardy matter is under review," league spokesman Greg Aiello said. "The case has not been resolved by the court."

San Jose police are still actively investigating the Aug. 31 incident involving the 6-foot-3, 290-pound McDonald and detectives will turn over findings to the Santa Clara District Attorney's office for review, Sgt. Heather Randall, a police spokeswoman said Wednesday.

McDonald is scheduled to appear in court on Sept. 15.

NFL

Middle management

No longer labeled a 'brute position,' middle linebackers have evolved into defensive QBs

By STEVE REED
The Associated Press

Hey Drew Brees, chances are Carolina Panthers middle linebacker Luke Kuechly has a pretty good idea of what play you're going to run before you take a snap.

That also goes for the Detroit's Matthew Stafford.

NFL middle linebackers are expected to know what's going to happen before it happens. They engage in ongoing battles of wits in pre-snap chess matches with opposing signal callers.

Kuechly, the AP's Defensive Player of the Year in 2013, is considered by coach Ron Rivera the team's "defensive quarterback" on the field.

Kuechly, and others who play the position, are required to do more than just run down ball carriers, shadow tight ends and backs in coverage and sack the quarterback.

They have to be smart and able to adjust on the fly. Middle linebackers are responsible for receiving the play call from the sideline on his headset, setting the defensive front, deciphering the play call and making pre-snap adjustments to make sure his teammates are in the correct place.

If Kuechly isn't on his game, chances are neither is Carolina's No. 2-ranked defense.

"It's fun when you see something and think, 'I know what they're doing,'" said Kuechly, who forced a key late fourth quarter fumble to seal Carolina's 20-14 win Sunday at Tampa Bay. "I like to line up and know, OK, this is

what offense they're in and this is what their tendencies are. This is what their top plays are out of this formation — now let's go."

Kuechly said his pre-snap reads start by analyzing the fullback-guard or center-guard combination, depending on the offensive formation.

"One of those guys is going to tell you where the play is going," Kuechly said.

For instance, if the offense comes out in base 21 front — two running backs and a tight end — lined up in an I-formation, Kuechly checks the fullback.

If he's lined up offset, it might give Kuechly a tip.

"It might be a play action or a flood pass," Kuechly said. "If the guard downblocks and the fullback inserts in the B gap it's a lead weak or a play action. Then, as the play develops you have play your responsibilities."

Those responsibilities aren't that much different if you play a 3-4 defense, said Titans middle linebacker Wesley Woodyard. He played with Denver last year, but joined Tennessee they transition to a 3-4 look.

"You got to control the A gap (the space between the guard and center) in the run game, so it's pretty much the same thing" regardless of scheme, Woodyard said.

Kansas City Chiefs middle linebacker Derrick Johnson said his role has changed over the course of nine seasons. He's forced to do more thinking, more analyzing and more communicating than ever before.

"We're a lot more of the quarterback on the defensive side," said Johnson, who tore his Achilles in the Chiefs' loss Sunday to Tennessee. "A lot of teams do hurry-up now who didn't do it a while back. Now it's one of those things where I have to tell everybody, 'Hey, play this front, do this and this,' and get everybody lined up."

Every once in a while, a middle linebacker is faced with an alignment he's not seen from an opponent before during film study.

Kuechly said when that happens he refers back to his mental rolodex of what plays other teams have run out of that formation in the past.

"We just do what our rules say and we should be all right," said Kuechly, whose 320 tackles last two seasons are the most in the NFL.

Like most middle linebackers, Kuechly has the power to change the defensive play call, although he said he only does once or twice at game at most. Instead, when he



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Carolina Panthers' Luke Kuechly (59) goes over plays with coaches during practice on July 28 at their training camp in Spartanburg, S.C. The AP's Defensive Player of the Year in 2013, Kuechly is considered by Panthers coach Ron Rivera the team's "defensive quarterback" on the field.

picks up on a tip from the offense he'll move his teammates based upon predetermined adjustments within the defensive call.

He does so by a series of demonstrative hand and voice signals, similar to what Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning does before most plays.

Rivera played linebacker for the Bears for nine seasons from 1984 to 1992, playing

alongside Mike Singletary. He said the responsibilities of a middle linebacker have changed significantly over the past 30 years.

"It's no longer a brute position," Rivera said.

Rivera said with offensive play-calling ever evolving, playing middle linebackers has become more of a thinking man's game — which he said has made film preparation all the more important.

He said that is what helps separate Kuechly from a lot of young linebackers coming into the league. Teammates say if they always know where to look for Kuechly — in the film room.

Rivera said when Kuechly watches film he doesn't focus on the action, he looks at play development.

"Luke anticipating and knowing what he's going to get, that's huge," Rivera said. "As a middle linebacker you need the ability to take what you're seeing in your mind and transfer it on to the field."

The good middle linebackers all do it, and Kuechly is one of the best at this craft.

By the numbers

320

Number of tackles made by Luke Kuechly in his first two seasons, most in the NFL over that time.

9

Number of tackles Luke Kuechly made in Carolina's season-opening win over Tampa Bay, which led team.

164

Number of tackles made by Luke Kuechly in 2012 to win the Defensive Rookie of the Year award.

SOURCE: nfl.com

"It's fun when you see something and think, 'I know what they're doing.' I like to line up and know, OK, this is what offense they're in and this is what their tendencies are. This is what their top plays are out of this formation — now let's go."

Luke Kuechly
Carolina Panthers middle linebacker





GAMEDAY

WEEK 2

TELEVISED GAMES



New Orleans Saints (0-1)
at Cleveland Browns (0-1)

AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The Browns lead 12-4 and have won four of the past five.

Last meeting: The Browns won 30-17 on Oct. 24, 2010, in New Orleans.

Notes: The Saints' Drew Brees passed for 333 yards in last week's loss to Atlanta. It was his 79th career 300-yard game, the second most in league history (Peyton Manning). Browns rookie running back Terrance West rushed for 100 yards last week in his NFL debut.



Seattle Seahawks (1-0)
at San Diego Chargers (0-1)

AFN-Sports
10 p.m. Sunday CET
5 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The Seahawks lead 26-23 and have won six of the past seven.

Last meeting: The Seahawks won 27-20 on Sept. 26, 2010, in Seattle.

Notes: The Seahawks have won five in a row dating back to last season, outscoring their opponents 152-65. Since 2006, Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers has 32,459 passing yards, the second-most in the league (Drew Brees).

Marquee matchup

Atlanta Falcons (1-0) at Cincinnati Bengals (1-0)

AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, 2 a.m. Monday JKT

SERIES RECORD: Bengals lead 7-5; Falcons have won past three.

LAST MEETING: Falcons beat Bengals 39-32, Oct. 24, 2010, at Atlanta.

FALCONS OFFENSE: OVERALL (1), RUSH (14), PASS (1).

FALCONS DEFENSE: OVERALL (30), RUSH (24), PASS (27).

BENGALS OFFENSE: OVERALL (15), RUSH (24), PASS (8).

BENGALS DEFENSE: OVERALL (28), RUSH (13) PASS (26).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan passed for franchise-record 448 yards with three touchdowns and a 128.8 rating last week. He has 156 career passing TDs and moved into first place in team history last week. Led 24th game-winning drive in fourth quarter or overtime, the most since entering the league in 2008. In his only start against Cincinnati on Oct. 24, 2010, he completed 24 of 33 passes for 299 yards with three TDs and one interception for a 118.1 rating. ... In his last game against Cincinnati on Dec. 18, 2011 with St.

Louis, Falcons running back Steven Jackson had 143 yards from scrimmage (71 rushing, 72 receiving). Has the most rushing yards (10,733) since joining the league in 2004. ... In his past three games against NFC teams, Bengals QB Andy Dalton has completed 71 of 100 passes for 970 yards with nine TDs and one interception for a 127.5 rating. He has a 31-18 record, the highest winning percentage of any QB in franchise history (with a minimum of 20 starts). ... In his past four games at home, Bengals RB Giovani Bernard has averaged 93.5 yards from scrimmage. He had 110 last week (48 rushing, 62 receiving). ... Bengals WR A.J. Green had 131 receiving yards against the Ravens, including the game-winning 77-yard TD in the fourth quarter. In his past five games against NFC teams, he has 32 receptions for 517 yards and seven TDs. Since entering the league in 2011, he has 3,964 receiving yards, the most in the AFC. ... Since 2012, Cincinnati's Geno Atkins leads all defensive tackles with 18 ½ sacks. Defensive end Wallace Gilberry has five sacks in his last seven games, including 1 ½ against the Ravens.



Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones

JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com



Kansas City Chiefs (0-1)
at Denver Broncos (1-0)

AFN-Atlantic
10:25 p.m. Sunday CET
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The Chiefs lead 56-51, but the Broncos have won the past four.

Last meeting: The Broncos won 35-28 on Dec. 1, 2013, in Kansas City.

Notes: Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith has won nine of his past 12 starts in September. Last week, Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning became the second QB in history to pass for more than 65,000 yards in his career (Brett Favre).



Chicago Bears (0-1)
at San Francisco 49ers (1-0)

AFN-Sports
2:20 a.m. Monday CET
9:20 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: It's tied 29-29-1, but the 49ers have won the past two.

Last meeting: The 49ers won 32-7 on Nov. 19, 2012, in San Francisco.

Notes: Bears running back Matt Forte had eight catches for 120 yards in the teams' last meeting. 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick made his first career start against the Bears and finished the game with a 133.1 rating. He had a 125.5 rating last week against the Cowboys.

Also on AFN:

Houston Texans (1-0) at Oakland Raiders (0-1), joined in progress, AFN-Xtra, 11:30 p.m. Sunday CET, 6:30 a.m. Monday JKT

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	33	20	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	19	14	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	23	20	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
New England	0	1	0	.000	20	33	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
South											
Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000	26	10	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	17	16	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	17	34	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	24	31	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
North											
Cincinnati	1	0	0	1.000	23	16	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	30	27	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	27	30	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	16	23	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
West											
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	31	24	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
San Diego	0	1	0	.000	17	18	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Oakland	0	1	0	.000	14	19	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	10	26	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	PA	Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
Philadelphia	0	1	0	.000	34	17	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Washington	0	1	0	.000	6	17	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	17	28	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	14	25	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
South											
Carolina	1	0	0	1.000	30	14	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	37	34	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
New Orleans	0	1	0	.000	34	37	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	14	20	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
North											
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	34	6	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	35	14	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	20	23	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	16	36	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
West											
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	36	16	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	28	17	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	18	17	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	6	34	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Dallas at Tennessee
New England at Minnesota
Miami at Buffalo
Jacksonville at Washington
Arizona at N.Y. Giants
Detroit at Carolina
St. Louis at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Jets at Green Bay
Philadelphia at Indianapolis

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Sept. 18
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Sunday, Sept. 21
San Diego at Buffalo
Dallas at St. Louis
Washington at Philadelphia
Houston at N.Y. Giants
Minnesota at New Orleans
Houston at Cincinnati
Baltimore at Cleveland
Green Bay at Detroit
Indianapolis at Jacksonville
Oakland at New England
San Francisco at Arizona
Denver at Seattle
Kansas City at Miami
Pittsburgh at Carolina
Monday, Sept. 22
Chicago at N.Y. Jets

SPORTS

DAMAGED

GOODS

Goodell, league under pressure after claim tape was sent in April

Inside:

■ Former FBI director Mueller to lead independent inquiry into league's handling of Rice case

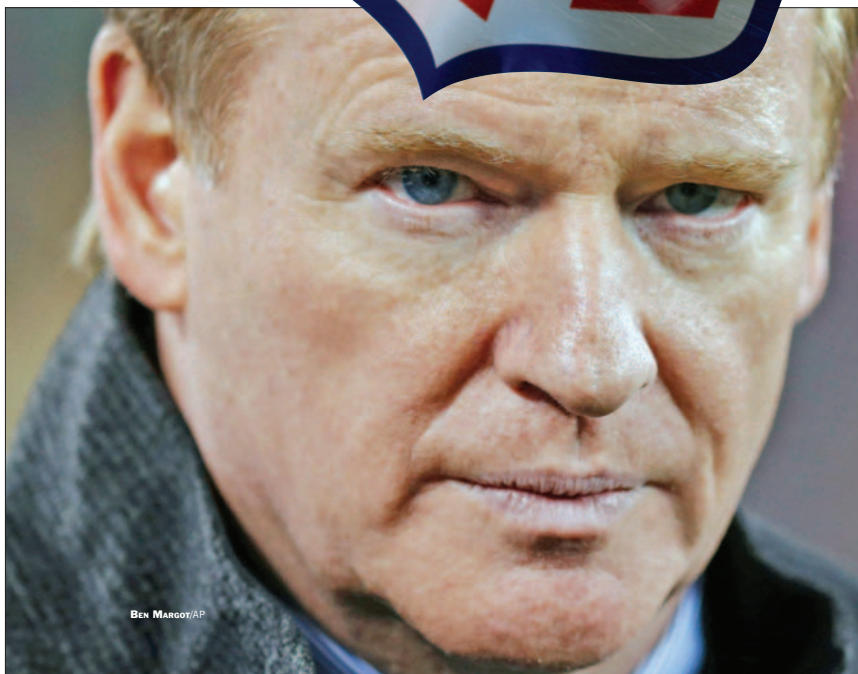
■ Law enforcement official says voice mail confirms video received in April

■ Commentary: Commissioner has a lot to answer for in wake of multiple missteps following Rice's arrest

■ Case not Goodell's first brush with controversy during tenure

■ Two other players with domestic violence issues playing while awaiting legal resolutions

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BEN MARGOT/AP

Pistorius found not guilty of murder, but jail still possible | **Page 55**

Chase for the Sprint Cup Championship preview, driver capsules | **Pages 58-59**

